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ABSTRACT

The poverty problems in rural America are categorized and analyzed in terms of the extent and persistence of rural poverty, causes and costs of poverty, poverty characteristics of rural areas, and implications for anti-poverty programs. The report defines poverty and briefly traces the history of rural poverty over the past 20 years. Maps, charts, and graphs are scattered throughout the document as visual and statistical aids in determining the scope of the problem. (DB)

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POVERTY in Rural Areas of the United States

RC003866

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS DIVISION

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HIGHLIGHTS

1. In 1959, approximately 17.4 million rural people were living in poverty. Sixteen million were members of 4.4 million families and nearly 1.6 million were unrelated individuals. Persons considered to be living in poverty are those in families with incomes less than \$3,000 or unrelated individuals whose incomes are less than \$1,500.

2. Of the 16 million persons in families, 10 million were nonfarm residents and 6 million lived on farms. Of the 1.6 million unrelated individuals, 1.4 million were nonfarm residents and 200,000 lived on farms.

3. Of the 17.4 million poor people in rural areas in 1959, a little over 12 million were whites, over 4 million were Negroes, and 250,000 were American Indians.

4. Some rural families are chronically poor. The families of hired farmworkers, domestic migratory farmworkers, and sharecroppers are in this category. These families are concentrated in the southern part of the country. Poor rural nonfarm families are generally more widely dispersed than poor farm families. American Indians are among these rural nonfarm families.

5. Much of the poverty existing in rural areas can be attributed to unemployment and underemployment. In 1959, the total number of rural unemployed equivalents for persons 20 to 64 years of age was 3,032,000, or 18 percent of the total rural labor force in this age group. By 1980, improved work opportunities for this many unemployed and underemployed could enable an increase of \$40 billion per year in the gross national product.

6. In depressed rural areas, the educational level of the family head and other members is almost always low. Moreover, at each educational level of the head, there is a higher proportion of poor families in rural areas than of poor families in the United States as a whole. In rural areas throughout the country, educational facilities are fewer and of a lower quality than those elsewhere. Employment opportunities for most workers are fewer, and proportionately more families are likely to depend on personal income as their only cash income source.

7. Poverty is more prevalent among families headed by persons 65 years old or older. Over 1 million poor rural families have heads in this age group. In the South, one out of every four low income families is headed by such a person. Three times as many white families have older heads as nonwhite families.

8. In general, rural people have poorer housing, public utilities, and schools, and less access to hospitals and medical doctors than urban dwellers.

9. Because of the complex nature of poverty in rural areas and its prevalence among a large proportion of the population, those concerned with anti-poverty programs must take many factors into consideration. Two general types of programs seem to be needed. These are programs to raise the economic status of individual families and those to develop, consolidate, or otherwise upgrade public services such as schools, hospitals, roads, and water supplies. Programs to assist families should complement one another to a considerable extent. These programs may be of three types: (1) programs to provide education, training, and employment opportunities mainly for persons under 45 years of age; (2) programs to develop local employment opportunities for the relatively unskilled, particularly for family heads 45 years of age or older; and (3) welfare programs, including housing, geared primarily to the needs of older people, invalids, and perhaps families headed by women.

POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

By

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INTRODUCTION

America is a symbol of wealth and industry. In 1963, the gross national product (GNP) for the United States was \$585 billion, an increase of \$30 billion over the record-breaking figure of \$555 billion in 1962 (19). 1/ In 1947, half the families in the United States had total cash incomes of at least \$4,117 (table 1). By 1962, this figure had increased to \$5,956. Yet, amidst this abundance, almost one-fifth of the Nation's population, one-half of whom lived in rural areas, were in families whose incomes were less than \$3,000.

The poor are those whose level of living is inadequate--those whose basic needs exceed their means to satisfy them. The ability to fulfill these needs depends on current income, whatever its source. Income is therefore the principal measure of poverty, but not the only one. Persons considered to be living in poverty are those in families with net cash incomes of less than \$3,000 and unrelated individuals whose incomes are less than \$1,500 (persons living alone or in nonfamily units). On the other hand, some families and individuals whose incomes are above these levels are poverty-stricken and some with incomes below these levels are not thought of as poor.

For the rural population, conventional census definitions are used. 2/ The rural population, as contrasted with the urban population, comprises persons living in communities with less than 2,500 people (16). The rural population is subdivided into rural farm and rural nonfarm segments. The rural farm population includes persons living on 10 or more acres, if as much as \$50 worth of agricultural products were sold from the farm in the reporting year. It also includes persons living on less than 10 acres, if as much as \$250 worth of agricultural products were sold in the reporting year. The rural nonfarm population is that part of the rural population not included in the farm population (18). It includes persons living in institutions, summer camps, motels, tourist camps, and on rented places where no land is used for farming.

Progress has been made in reducing the number of American people living in poverty as defined here. In 1947, nearly one out of every three U. S. families had net incomes (in 1962 dollars) of less than \$3,000. In 1962, only one family in five was so disadvantaged. Reducing the extent of poverty involves both raising the level of living of those with low incomes and preventing the emergence of new poverty pockets. The rate of increase in the average income of rural families in the South has been greater than that of similar families in other parts of the Nation (7). Yet the

1/ Underscored numbers in parentheses refer to items in Literature Cited, p. 35.

2/ See appendix.

Table 1.--Number, median income, and percentage distribution of U. S. families, by cash income (1962 dollars), 1947, 1952-62

Year	Total number of families	Families with total cash incomes--										Median income ^{1/}
		Under \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$6,999	\$7,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$15,000 and over	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Dollars		
1947	37,237	32	32	18	11	2/ 7	2/	2	2	4,117		
1952	40,832	28	30	22	15	5		2	2	4,442		
1953	41,202	26	27	24	15	6		2	2	4,809		
1954	41,934	28	27	22	15	6		2	2	4,705		
1955	42,843	25	25	24	17	7		2	2	5,004		
1956	43,445	23	23	24	19	8		3	3	5,337		
1957	43,714	23	23	24	19	8		3	3	5,333		
1958	44,202	23	23	24	19	8		3	3	5,329		
1959	45,062	22	21	23	20	10		4	4	5,631		
1960	45,435	21	20	23	21	11		4	4	5,759		
1961	46,341	21	20	22	21	11		5	5	5,820		
1962	46,996 ⁺	20	19	22	21	13		5	5	5,956		

^{1/} Income level at dividing line between upper 50 percent and lower 50 percent of all families.

^{2/} Figure combined for both columns.

Source: Current Population Reports: Consumer Income (17).

proportion of families with incomes under \$3,000, and even under \$2,500, remains highest in the South, and pockets of poverty among rural people seem to be emerging in other areas.

This report outlines the dimensions of poverty in rural areas, cites some types of poverty, and explores the implications for community leaders and others concerned with developing anti-poverty programs.

THE EXTENT AND PERSISTENCE OF POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Number Living in Poverty

In 1962, over 9 million U. S. families had net cash incomes of less than \$3,000. In addition, 5 million unrelated individuals had incomes below \$1,500. Together they constituted 35 million U. S. citizens, or nearly 19 percent of the total population.

In 1959, 4.4 million of these low income families and over 1.6 million of the unrelated persons lived in rural areas (table 2, fig. 1). Of the families, 2.8 million (approximately 10 million people) were nonfarm residents and 1.6 million (approximately 6 million people) lived on farms (fig. 2). Of the unrelated persons, 1.4 million were nonfarm residents and 0.2 million lived on farms. The proportion of low income people was highest among rural farm families. The income of almost one of every two of these families, compared with one of every 3.5 rural nonfarm families, was under \$3,000.

Poverty among Selected Groups

Of the approximately 17.4 million low income rural residents in 1959, a little over 12 million were whites (including 350,000 Spanish Americans), over 4 million were Negroes, and 250,000 were American Indians. Of the whites, 3 million lived in Appalachia (13). The Spanish Americans, representing 25 percent of farm migratory workers, lived primarily in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

Of the poor Negroes in the South, $2\frac{1}{4}$ million were nonfarm residents and $1\frac{1}{4}$ million lived on farms.

Of the 16 million persons comprising families, 6 million were children under 18 years of age and 1.2 million were between the ages of 16 and 21. Of those under 18, 3.7 million were members of rural nonfarm families and 2.3 million were members of rural farm families. In 1964, there were an estimated 1,750,000 poor rural youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Of these, 1 million were nonfarm residents and 750,000 lived on farms.

Areas with Persistently Low Incomes

For decades, certain rural areas in this country have had many farm families with very low incomes. Poverty persists in many areas of the South and in parts of eastern Texas and Oklahoma northward to parts of Missouri and Appalachia. It also persists in scattered areas of the Northwest and some parts of the Southwest, such as Arizona and New Mexico, where isolated groups of Spanish Americans and Indians live (figs. 2, 3, 4). Pockets of poverty appear to be developing in Iowa and other areas of the Midwest. Without suitable remedial programs, these areas may become chronically poor. (Compare figs. 1 through 5.)

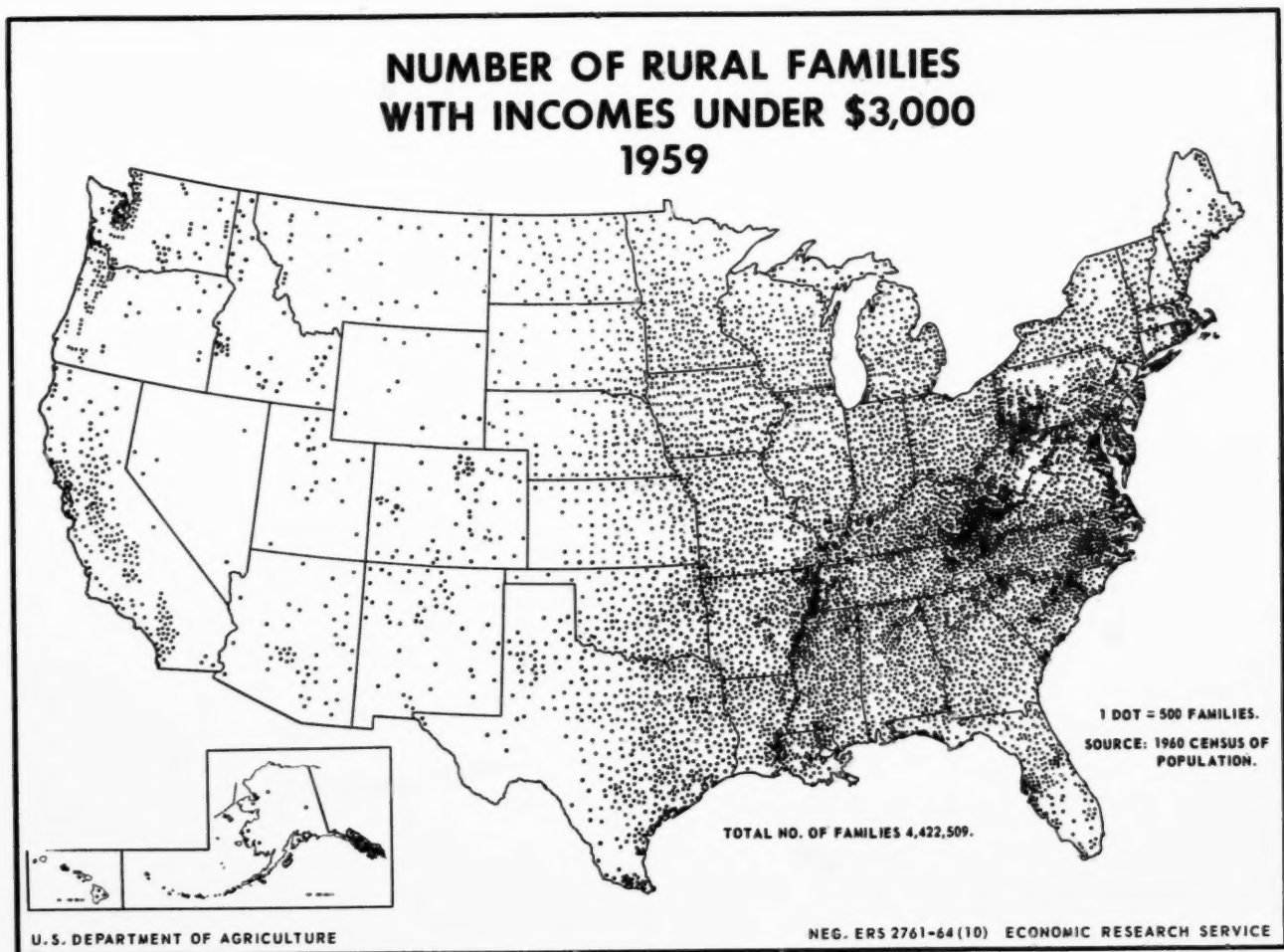


Figure 1

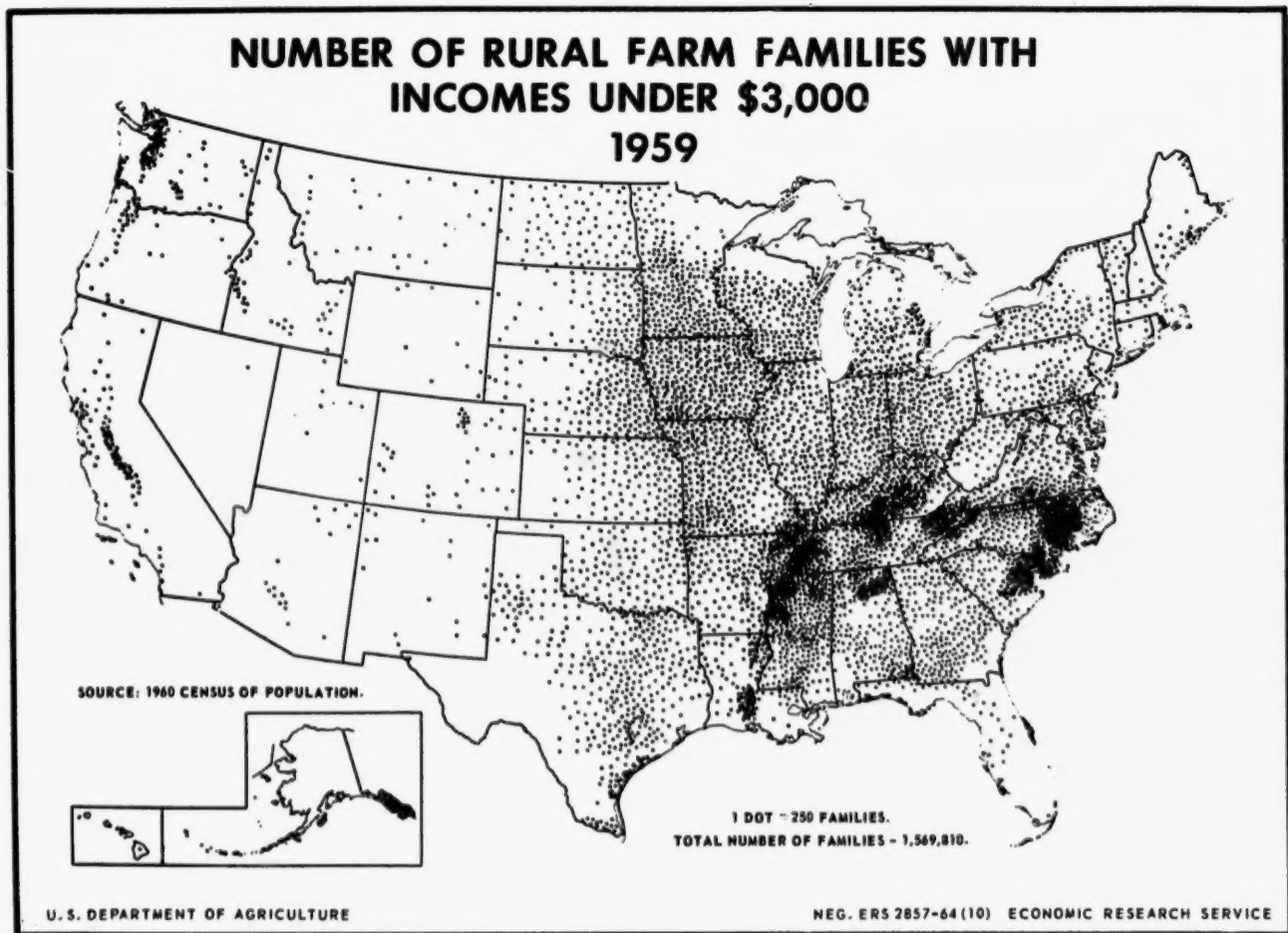


Figure 2

Table 2.--Number of U. S. families with 1959 net cash incomes under \$3,000 and number of persons in these families, by region and residence, 1960

Residence	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>Families:</u>					
Urban -----	5,227	1,228	1,245	1,994	760
Rural -----	4,423	402	1,206	2,477	338
Nonfarm -----	2,853	330	625	1,647	251
Farm -----	1,570	72	581	830	87
Total -----	9,650	1,630	2,451	4,471	1,098
<u>Family members:</u>					
Urban -----	16,024	---	---	---	---
Rural -----	15,751	---	---	---	---
Nonfarm -----	9,858	---	---	---	---
Farm -----	5,893	---	---	---	---
Total -----	31,775 ^{1/}	4,762	7,460	16,305	3,313

^{1/} Difference in regional total (31,840) and U. S. total (31,775) due to variations in the methods of inflating the samples.

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (16).

The Increasing Dependence of Farmers on Off-Farm Income

To escape from poverty (and prevent entry into this class) farm families have relied increasingly on off-farm jobs. For example, farm families selling \$2,500 to \$4,999 of farm products attained total cash incomes averaging \$3,365 in 1959, compared with \$3,088 in 1949 (in 1959 dollars). This slight increase in total net cash income, despite a probable drop ^{3/} in net cash income from farming, was due to an impressive increase in off-farm income from an average of \$892 in 1949 to \$2,077 in 1959 (table 3).

^{3/} Comparisons of farm income based on only 2 years are normally suspect. For these 2 years, however, detailed studies reported in (11) endorse the general conclusion in the text. The sizes of the estimated income changes from 1949 to 1959 are thought sufficient to compensate for errors in the general conclusion because of year-to-year income variations.

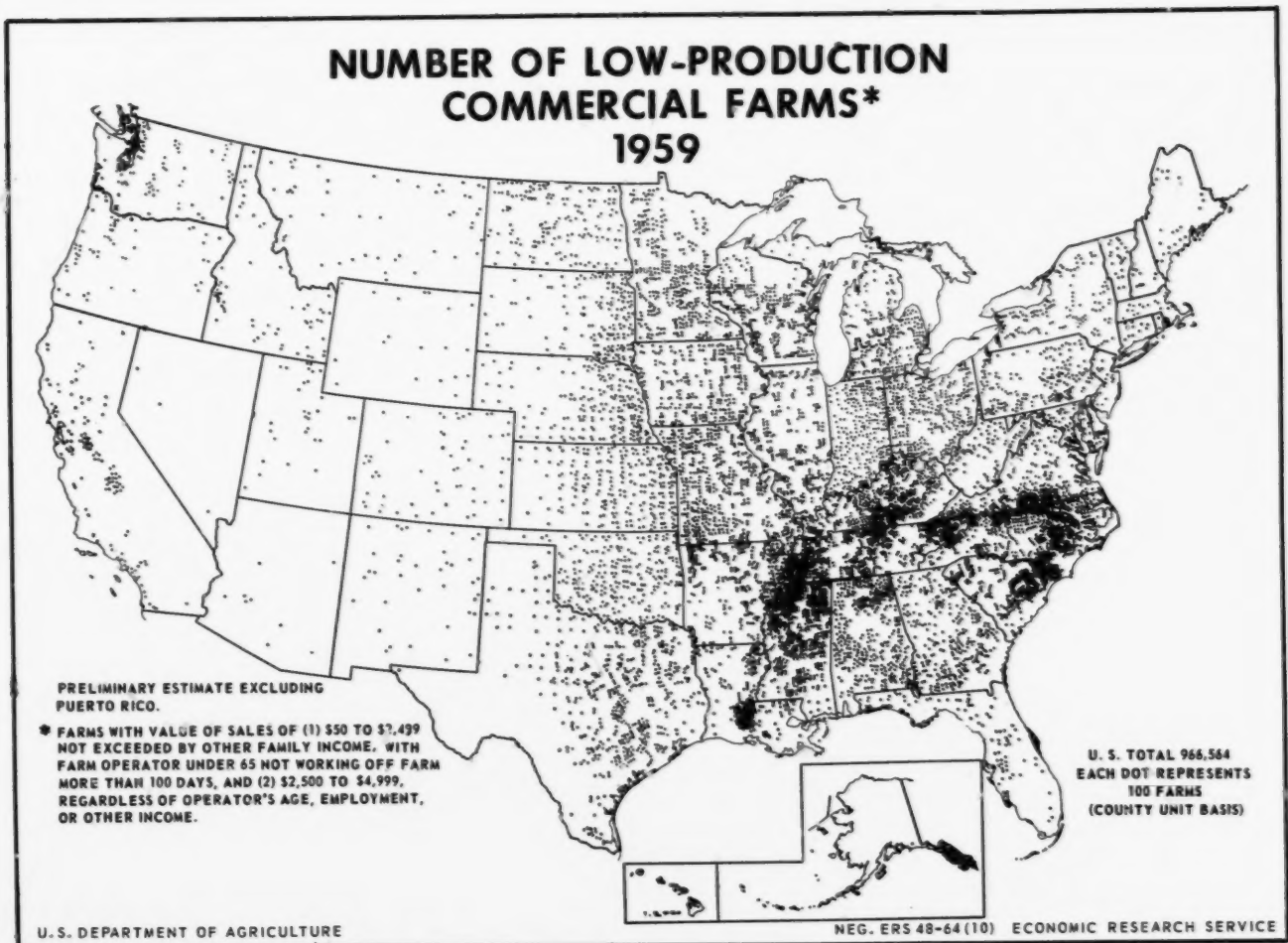


Figure 3

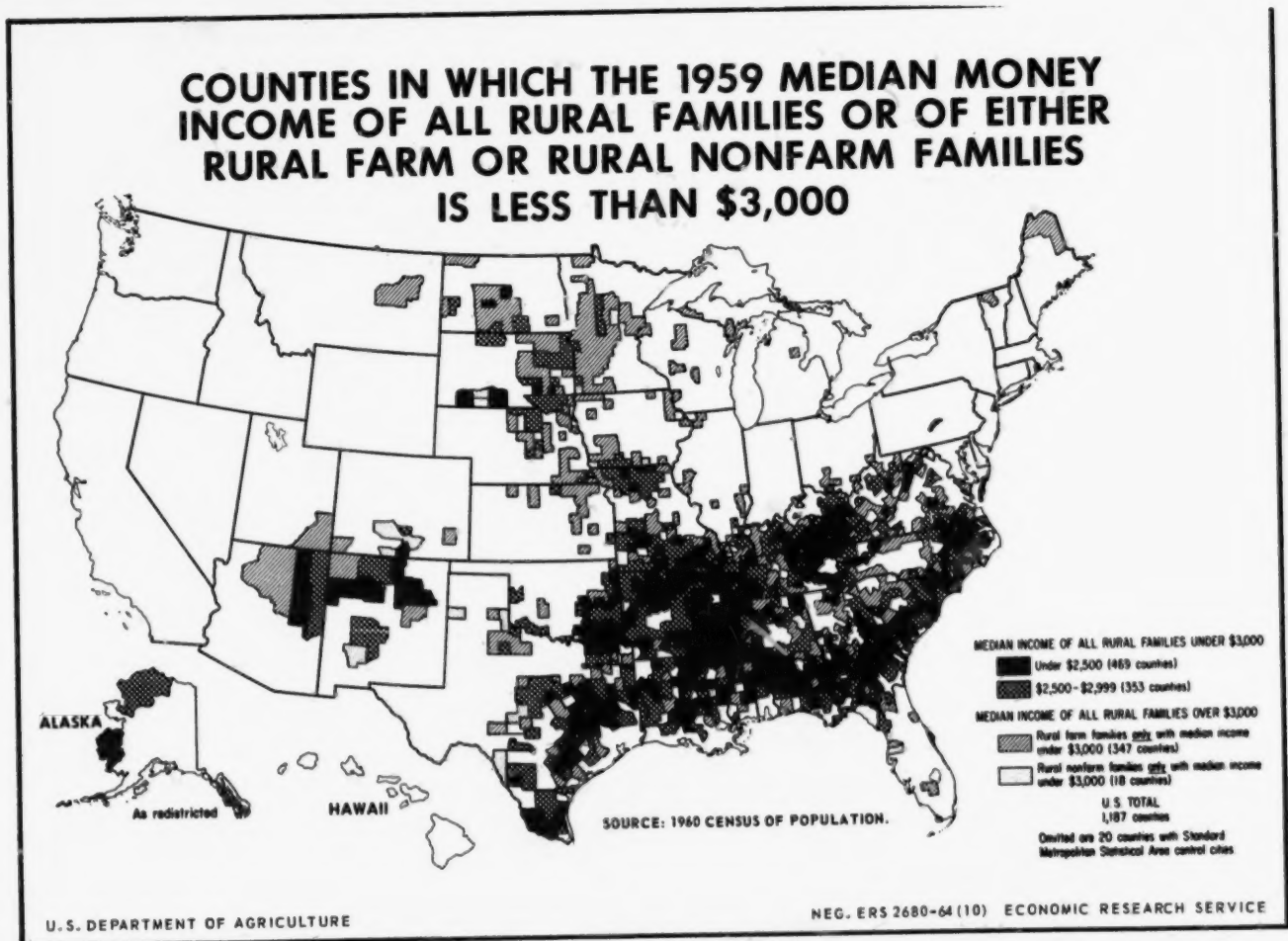


Figure 4

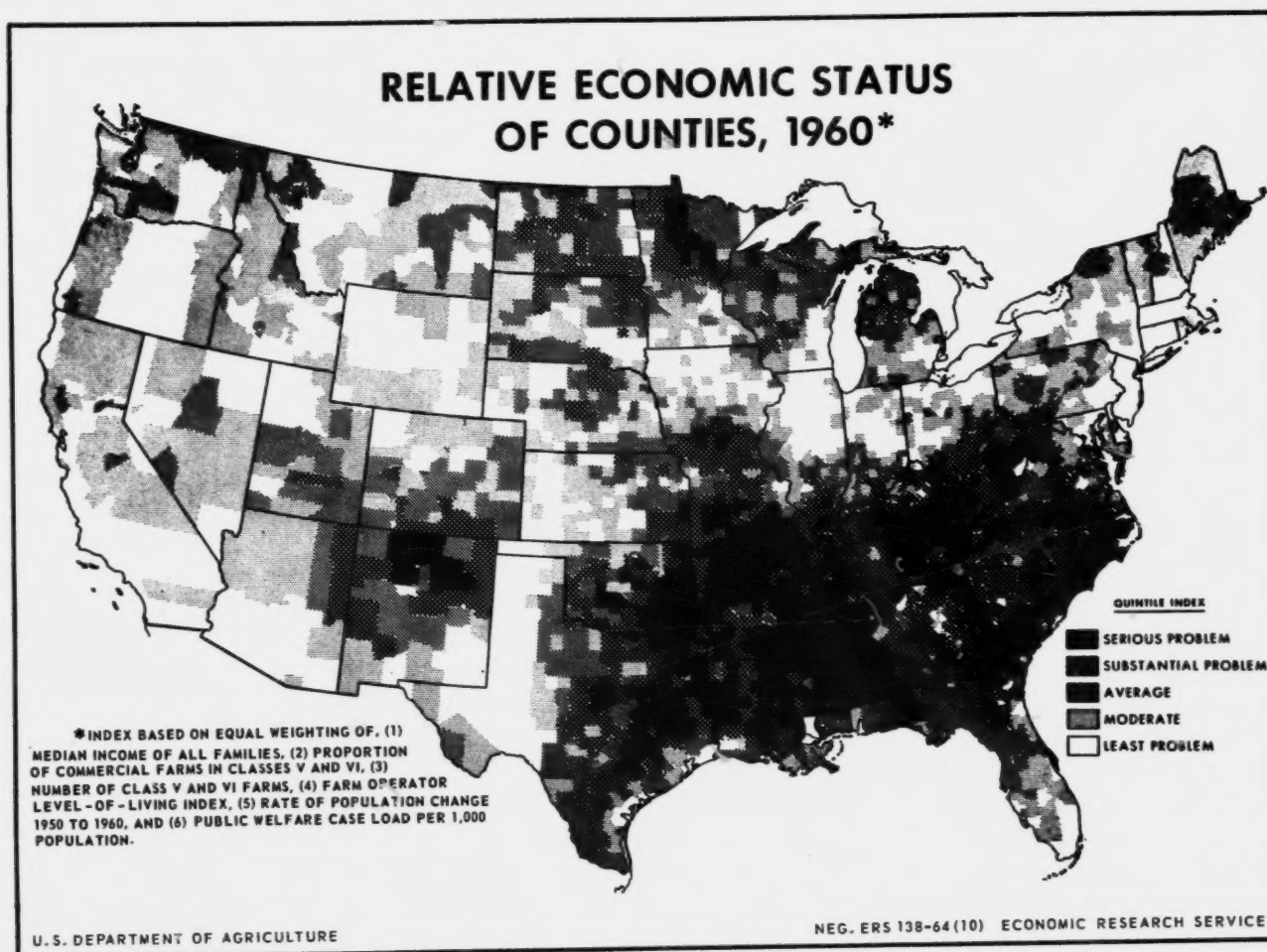


Figure 5

Table 3.-- Average cash income of farm operator families, by source of income and value of products sold from the farm, United States, 1949 and 1959

Value of products sold from the farm	Source of income				Total cash income	
	Farm income		Off-farm income			
	1949 ^{1/}	1959	1949 ^{1/}	1959	1949 ^{1/}	1959
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
\$10,000 or more -----	9,200	6,636	1,148	1,978	10,348	8,614
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	3,965	2,165	797	1,567	4,762	3,732
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	2,196	1,288	892	2,077	3,088	3,365
Less than \$2,500 -----	698	217	1,545	2,884	2,243	3,101

^{1/} Net income from nonfarm business or professional practice is included in farm income and excluded from off-farm income for 1949. As an indication of the probable effect of this on the comparability of the data, the average income from off-farm business or self-employment was \$371 in 1955 for farms with gross sales of \$10,000 or more.

Source: Farm Numbers, Farm Size and Farm Income (11, table 8, p. 11).

Geographic Distribution of Low Income Families

Low income rural families are scattered throughout the United States. But the concentration of poor families is greatest in counties in the southern part of the country. In 1959, 1,187 counties in the United States, or more than one in three, had a significant proportion of low income families (fig. 4, table 4). Of these, 942 were in the Southeast, Southwest, and neighboring States, excluding counties in Arizona where American Indians are concentrated. The Arizona counties and some in the Dakotas are among the remaining 245.

The 1959 median income of all rural families in 822 of the counties with a high proportion of low income families was under \$3,000. In 469 of these, the median income of all rural families was under \$2,500. In 347 of the 1,187 counties, the median income of rural farm families only was under \$3,000. In other words, more than half of the rural farm families in each of these 347 counties had net cash incomes of less than \$3,000. The Great Plains and the Southwest have many counties of this type. The median income of rural nonfarm families only was under \$3,000 in 18 of the counties.

Low income rural nonfarm families are more widely distributed than low income rural farm families. There are several reasons for this. In some areas the economic status of rural nonfarm families is dependent on the economic status of rural farm families and the directly related employment and training opportunities in neighboring towns and cities. Families dependent on farm income are restricted to farms or agricultural areas. In addition, some rural nonfarm communities have developed around activities such as mining, the harvest of timber, and the construction of railroads, particularly from 1880 to 1910. Technological advances have affected employment opportunities in these communities as well as in those dependent on agriculture. Wider dispersal of rural nonfarm families also results from the location of American Indians and Spanish Americans in otherwise remote areas.

Work Groups with Persistently Low Incomes

In 1948, the average annual cash income of families headed by hired farmworkers was \$1,490, compared with a national average cash income of \$3,373 for civilian families. By 1960, the average cash income of the farm laborer's family was \$2,495, an increase of 67 percent. The average cash income of civilian families rose to \$6,162, an increase of 82 percent of a base already more than twice that of the average family headed by a farm laborer (table 5).

The incomes of farmworkers remain low largely because the supply of farm labor is stable, yet the demand for farm laborers is declining. Moreover, the educational level of these workers, unlike that of any other group in the country, has remained the same for the past 20 years. This condition prevents their securing better paying nonfarm jobs.

Domestic migratory farmworkers in particular continue to have low incomes. In 1962, the latest year for which detailed information is available, there were 380,000 domestic migratory farmworkers, or about 11 percent of all persons who had done some farm wage work that year. In that year, the average migratory worker was employed 120 days at wage work, 91 of which were spent in farmwork. Daily earnings from farmwork averaged \$7.50.

Table 4.--Number of U. S. counties, by States, in which the median cash income of all rural families, only rural farm families, and only rural nonfarm families was less than \$3,000 in 1959

State	Total number of counties	Number of counties in which --			
		Median income of all rural families was under \$3,000	Median income of only rural farm families was under \$3,000	Median income of only rural nonfarm families was under \$3,000	
		Median in- come under \$2,500	Median in- come \$2,500: to \$2,999		
Alabama -----	57	32	15	10	---
Alaska -----	3	2	1	---	---
Arizona -----	3	1	1	1	---
Arkansas -----	68	42	25	1	---
California -----	---	---	---	---	---
Colorado -----	7	1	1	2	3
Connecticut -----	---	---	---	---	---
Delaware -----	---	---	---	---	---
Florida -----	23	5	10	7	1
Georgia -----	115	68	28	19	---
Idaho -----	---	---	---	---	---
Illinois -----	18	---	5	13	---
Indiana -----	---	---	---	---	---
Iowa -----	27	---	5	21	1
Kansas -----	15	---	2	13	---
Kentucky -----	92	44	29	18	1
Louisiana -----	38	20	15	3	---
Maine -----	1	---	---	1	---
Maryland -----	---	---	---	---	---
Massachusetts -----	---	---	---	---	---
Michigan -----	3	---	---	3	---
Minnesota -----	38	---	5	33	---
Mississippi -----	75	60	8	6	1
Missouri -----	77	23	31	23	---
Montana -----	2	---	---	2	---
Nebraska -----	28	---	7	21	---
Nevada -----	---	---	---	---	---
New Hampshire -----	---	---	---	---	---
New Jersey -----	---	---	---	---	---
New Mexico -----	10	5	2	2	1
New York -----	---	---	---	---	---
North Carolina -----	72	34	19	19	---
North Dakota -----	17	2	4	11	---
Ohio -----	6	---	1	5	---
Oklahoma -----	30	14	11	4	1
Oregon -----	---	---	---	---	---
Pennsylvania -----	1	---	---	1	---

Table 4.-- Number of U. S. counties, by States, in which the median cash income of all rural families, only rural farm families, and only rural nonfarm families was less than \$3,000 in 1959 -- Continued

State	Total number of counties	Number of counties in which --			
		Median income of all rural families was under \$3,000	Median income of only rural farm families was under \$3,000	Median income of only rural nonfarm families was under \$3,000	
		Median in- come under \$2,500	Median in- come \$2,500 to \$2,999		
Rhode Island -----	---	---	---	---	---
South Carolina ----	39	16	11	12	---
South Dakota -----	37	5	17	14	1
Tennessee -----	78	44	23	11	---
Texas -----	115	40	42	26	7
Utah -----	1	---	---	1	---
Vermont -----	2	---	---	2	---
Virginia -----	52	7	22	22	1
Washington -----	---	---	---	---	---
West Virginia ----	31	4	13	14	---
Wisconsin -----	6	---	---	6	---
Wyoming -----	---	---	---	---	---
United States --	1,187	469	353	347	18

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (16).

In most years since 1949 the number of days of farm wage work for migratory workers has been lower than that for nonmigratory workers. On the other hand, the number of days of nonfarm wage work was greater for migratory workers. In all these years, the total number of days of farm and nonfarm wage work of the average migratory worker was less than that of the nonmigratory worker.

Sharecroppers, whose incomes have also remained consistently low, are rapidly disappearing from the farm scene. In 1959, there were only about 121,000 sharecropper farms, as defined by the census, in the 16 Southern States. This was less than half the number of sharecropper farms in 1954. In 1959, the average value of farm products sold from over 98,000 commercial sharecropper farms was \$3,794.

CAUSES AND COSTS OF POVERTY

Poverty among rural people in this country has several causes. The main cause is unemployment and underemployment. Underemployed people as defined here are those whose real earnings are significantly below the average earnings of all persons in the United States who have comparable income-earning capacities (10). In 1959, the total

Table 5.--Median annual cash incomes of U. S. families (in current dollars), by occupation of head of household, 1948 and 1960

Occupation of head of household	Median cash income	
	1948	1960
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Professional and technical workers:		
Self-employed -----	6,842	11,014
Salaried -----	4,254	8,124
Managers, officials, and nonfarm proprietors:		
Self-employed -----	3,952	6,138
Salaried -----	4,885	9,186
Clerical and kindred workers -----	3,724	5,934
Sales workers -----	3,809	6,977
Craftsmen and foremen -----	3,727	6,660
Operatives -----	3,343	5,702
Service workers:		
Except private household workers -----	2,947	4,939
Private household workers -----	1,236	1,765
Laborers:		
Nonfarm -----	2,452	4,393
Farm -----	1,490	2,495
Farmers and farm managers -----	1,969	2,803
Total (for employed civilians) -----	3,373	6,162

Source: Current Population Reports, Consumer Income (17, No. 6, p. 20; No. 37, p. 30).

number of rural unemployed equivalents of unemployed and underemployed for persons 20 to 64 years of age was 3,032,000, or 18 percent of the total rural labor force of 16,761,000 (table 6). In 1949, the number of unemployed equivalents was 4,193,000, or 25 percent of the total rural labor force.

A study of the work experience of farm employees in 1959 shows that unemployment is far more prevalent among hired farmworkers than among other groups in the labor force. Male hired farmworkers were more likely than females to have been unemployed during the year. About 25 percent of all persons who did 25 days or more of farmwork reported some unemployment during 1959. Farmworkers reported periods of unemployment averaging 17 weeks. Almost half reporting were unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, including a fourth who were looking for work for more than 26 weeks.

Table 6.--Number of unemployed and underemployed persons 20-64 years of age in the rural labor force, by sex and residence, United States, 1949 and 1959

	1949					1959				
Sex and residence	Total rural labor force 1/	Total unemployed 1/	Unemployed of underem- played 2/	Total unemployed and unemployed of equivalent of underemployed	Percent	Total rural labor force 1/	Total unemployed 1/	Unemployed of underem- played 2/	Total unemployed and unemployed of equivalent of underemployed	Percent
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	Number	As per- centage of total labor force	As per- centage of total labor force	As per- centage of total labor force	As per- centage of total labor force	Number	As per- centage of total labor force	As per- centage of total labor force	As per- centage of total labor force	As per- centage of total labor force
Males:										
Rural farm -----	5,838	104	2,417	2,521	43	3,183	78	1,255	1,333	42
Rural nonfarm --	7,487	374	756	1,131	15	9,236	493	500	993	11
Total -----	13,325	479	3,173	3,652	27	12,419	571	1,755	2,326	19
Females:										
Rural farm -----	1,047	31	142	173	16	880	40	104	144	16
Rural nonfarm --	2,300	104	264	368	16	3,462	204	358	562	16
Total -----	3,347	135	406	541	16	4,342	245	462	706	16
Grand total --	16,672	614	3,579	4,193	25	16,761	816	2,217	3,032	18

^{1/} Estimated annual averages, including military, computed from data in Manpower Report of the President, 1964, tables A-2, A-8; U. S. Census of Population, 1960, U. S. Summary, Series C, table 194, and 1950, Vol. II, Part I, table 118.

^{2/} Computation based on unpublished refinement of procedure used in Glasgow, Robert B. and Baum, E. L., "Considerations for Planning Economic Development in Rural Areas," Area Economic Development Branch, RDED, ERS, Aug. 1963, 26 pp., mimeo.

Note: Totals may not add because of rounding.

Almost a third of all workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work in 1959 reported that they usually worked part time, that is, less than 35 hours a week. Farm wage workers, as well as other workers, work less than full time for a number of reasons. Some work part time voluntarily. A large number, however, work part time because of gaps between short-term seasonal jobs, inability to find full-time work, or bad weather.

Poverty may be the result of inability to work because of a permanent physical handicap. In a typical depressed rural area, probably no more than 10 percent of the male family heads under 65 years of age are afflicted with such physical disability. Surveys of six low-production farm areas in 1956-58 showed that the percentage of such male family heads with a physical handicap ranged from 1 to 21 (10).

Another cause of poverty is the inability of persons, despite their frugality and best efforts, to gain control of sufficient resources to provide for themselves and their families adequately. This kind of poverty is widespread, but it is not easily measured. It is generally more severe in the South because higher paying jobs and training opportunities there are less available. Youths who quit school because of inadequate finances, farmers who have insufficient equity or management capacity to borrow the funds needed for business expansion, and persons who cannot finance their travel to distant jobs are examples of persons suffering from this kind of poverty.

Some people are poor because, regardless of their level of income and accumulated assets, they do not have access to the private and public services generally accepted as necessary for the pursuit of a good life. This kind of poverty may be termed environmental poverty. Persons so afflicted live in areas with inadequate schools, hospitals, transportation facilities, and public services. People remaining in areas where extensive outmigration has taken place are particularly vulnerable to environmental poverty if the schools, hospitals, and community facilities of those areas are not reorganized.

Some poor people in rural areas are considered to be "boxed-in" and necessarily dependent on assistance in their home communities. A recognition of the distinction between the "boxed-in" and "not boxed-in" groups appears critical to the development of successful anti-poverty programs. Older people with few assets and little education are considered boxed-in. The poor who are not boxed-in are (1) young people under 25 years of age who, despite their low level of education and lack of assets, have the potential for making an adequate income, and (2) older people with a fairly good education and experience that fits them for several jobs.

On the basis of 1959 data, it is estimated that 2 3/4 million low income rural family heads were boxed-in; 1,685,000 were not (table 7). Most of the boxed-in families were those with older heads whose potential for retraining and migration to other communities was relatively limited. In this group were an estimated 1,157,000 families with heads 65 years of age or older, 1,255,000 with heads 45 to 64 years of age and 8 years of school or less, and 338,000 with heads 25 to 44 years of age and primarily less than 8 years of formal schooling. Families whose heads were under 25 years of age were not considered boxed-in.

Of the boxed-in families, 1 3/4 million were rural nonfarm and 1 million were rural farm families. Of those not boxed-in, 1,102,000 were rural nonfarm and 583,000 were rural farm families (table 7).

Table 7.-- Number of "boxed-in" and "not boxed-in" low income rural family heads by residence and age, 1959

Group and age-education characteristics	Total rural	Number with rural nonfarm residence	Number with rural farm residence
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Boxed-in group:			
Heads 25-44 years of age -----	338	<u>1/</u> 186	<u>2/</u> 152
Heads 45-64 years of age -----	1,255	<u>1/</u> 750	<u>2/</u> 505
Heads 65 years or older -----	1,157	814	343
Total boxed-in -----	2,750	1,750	1,000
Not boxed-in group:			
Heads under 25 years of age:			
Completed 8th grade or less -----	93.5	69	24.5
More than 8th grade education -----	153.5	129	24.5
Heads 25-44 years of age -----	927	<u>1/</u> 627	<u>2/</u> 300
Heads 45-64 years of age -----	383	<u>1/</u> 187	<u>2/</u> 196
Heads 65 years or older -----	128	90	38
Total not boxed-in -----	1,685	1,102	583
Total (both groups) -----	4,435	2,852	1,583

1/ Estimates are based on the following: (a) an estimated 70.2 percent of all heads of rural nonfarm families ages 25-64 and 83.2 percent of corresponding heads age 65 years or over had 8 years schooling or less; (b) an estimated 80 percent of heads 45-64 years had completed 8 years schooling or less; (c) a judgment on the relative importance of age, education, sex, location of residence, race, family composition, level of assets, health, and other poverty-linked factors on the relative mobility and employment potential of rural families.

2/ Estimates are based on the following: (a) an estimated 69.2 percent of all heads of rural farm families ages 25-64 and 82.5 percent of corresponding heads age 65 years and over had 8 years schooling or less; (b) an estimated 80 percent of heads 45-64 years had completed 8 years schooling or less; (c) a judgment on the relative importance of age, education, sex, location of residence, race, family composition, level of assets, health, and other poverty-linked factors on the relative mobility and employment potential of rural families.

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (17).

Up to an estimated 75 percent of the poverty existing in rural areas could be relieved if extra jobs, training, and more business opportunities were made available to the more than 3 million unemployed equivalents in the rural labor force. The development of a program to combat poverty among these people would not only eliminate the waste of the Nation's most important resource--people--but would further stimulate the national economy and thereby provide more benefits to all citizens.

By 1980, improved work opportunities for the 3,032,000 unemployed and underemployed rural residents could cause the gross national product to be increased by an estimated \$40 billion, according to one estimate (2). With a bigger "national pie" every citizen could benefit. If the currently unemployed and underemployed rural

laborers were paid \$3,000 a year, their total earnings would amount to about \$9 billion. This sum subtracted from the expected increase in GNP of \$40 billion would leave nearly \$31 billion, or about 5 percent of the 1963 gross national product, for distribution among the rest of the labor force. Wages, salaries, dividends, inventories and equipment earned or held by other citizens could be increased by as much as \$5 for every \$100 of 1963 value.

POVERTY CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL AREAS

In 1959, 33.5 percent of all rural families had incomes of less than \$3,000, compared with only 16.4 percent of all urban families (table 8). Possible reasons for this higher incidence of poverty in rural areas are as follows. In general, the educational level of rural residents is lower than that of urban residents. This tends to limit rural people to lower paying jobs. Employment opportunities for most types of workers, particularly women, are fewer in rural areas. Few rural communities and urban centers of the South have much industry. This limited industrial development contributes to the severe poverty of a segment of the population, white as well as nonwhite. In many rural communities, most families are dependent on personal income only. They can seldom augment their incomes with money from property and other investments or by inheriting wealth.

Racial Composition

Of the total number of low income rural residents in the United States in 1959, about 75 percent were members of the white race (including 350,000 Spanish Americans), almost 22 percent were Negroes, and approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent (or 250,000) were American Indians.

Among whites as well as nonwhites, farm families are most likely to be poor. In either the farm, rural nonfarm, or urban groups, the percentage of poor nonwhite families is greater than that of poor white families. In 1960, for example, 88.4 percent of the nonwhite rural farm families, compared with 47.1 percent of white rural farm families, had total cash incomes of less than \$3,000. Among rural nonfarm families, 66.6 percent of the nonwhite families were in this income bracket and only 19.0 percent of the white families (table 9). The same pattern prevails among families of lower incomes.

Educational Attainment

Level of education is closely related to income. In 1959, the incidence of poverty decreased as the level of education of the family head increased. Of all U. S. families, only 8 percent of the heads who had completed 12 years of school or more represented families with net cash incomes under \$3,000 (table 11). In the same year, 35 percent of all U. S. families whose heads had completed 8 years of school or less had net cash incomes of less than \$3,000.

For families whose heads had the same educational level, the percentage of poor families was higher among rural nonfarm families than among all families in the United States. Higher than either was the percentage of poor families among all rural families in the South, and even higher was the percentage of poor families among all U. S. rural families. Highest of all was the percentage of nonwhite families in the South with incomes of less than \$3,000 (tables 10 and 12).

Table 8.--Number and proportion of U. S. families in selected income groups, by residence of family, 1959

Income groups	All U. S. fami- lies	Residence of family			
		Urban areas	Rural areas		Total
			Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	
Total number of families (in thousands) -----	45,128	31,940	3,332	9,856	13,188
Percentage distribution of all families -----	100.0	70.8	7.4	21.8	29.2
Median income of all families(dollars)-	5,660	6,166	3,228	4,750	4,381
Families with net cash incomes from all sources of less than \$1,000 (in thousands) -----	2,512	1,202	512	798	1,310
As percentage of all families					
with same residence -----	5.6	3.8	15.4	8.1	9.9
As percentage of all families					
with incomes under \$1,000 -----	100.0	47.9	20.4	31.8	52.1
Families with net cash incomes from all sources of less than \$2,000 (in thousands) -----	5,887	3,001	1,072	1,814	2,886
As percentage of all families					
with same residence -----	13.0	9.4	32.2	18.4	21.9
As percentage of all families					
with incomes under \$2,000 -----	100.0	51.0	18.2	30.8	49.0
Families with net cash incomes from all sources of less than \$3,000 (in thousands) -----	9,650	5,227	1,570	2,853	4,423
As percentage of all families					
with same residence -----	21.4	16.4	47.1	28.9	33.5
As percentage of all families					
with incomes under \$3,000 -----	100.0	54.2	16.3	29.5	45.8
Families with net cash incomes from all sources of less than \$5,000 (in thousands) -----	26,238	20,626	994	4,618	5,612
As percentage of all families					
with same residence -----	58.1	64.6	29.8	46.9	42.6
As percentage of all families					
with incomes under \$5,000 -----	100.0	78.6	3.8	17.6	21.4

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (16, table 95).

Table 9.-- Percentage of low income families in selected income groups, by residence and color, United States, 1960

Selected income groups and color	Residence		
	Urban areas	Rural areas	
		Rural farm	Rural nonfarm
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Under \$1,000:			
White -----	2.5	14.2	4.5
Nonwhite -----	6.7	43.5	24.3
Under \$1,500:			
White -----	4.7	22.3	7.9
Nonwhite -----	14.1	63.6	41.0
Under \$2,000:			
White -----	8.0	30.3	11.5
Nonwhite -----	21.2	76.3	49.7
Under \$2,500:			
White -----	11.7	38.8	15.4
Nonwhite -----	29.5	81.8	58.7
Under \$3,000:			
White -----	15.2	47.1	19.0
Nonwhite -----	36.0	88.4	66.6
Other:			
White -----	84.8	52.9	81.0
Nonwhite -----	64.0	11.6	33.4

Source: Unpublished data from the March 1961 Current Population Survey, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

The Rural Family Head

In rural areas, the incidence of poverty is generally much higher among families headed by persons 65 years old and older (male or female).

In 1959, almost 31 percent of all low income families in the United States were headed by persons 65 years old and older. Rural farm families accounted for 4 percent of these, rural nonfarm families 9.4 percent, and urban families 17.2 percent (table 12). A total of 1,285,000 poor rural families in the South were headed by such persons. Of this total, 848,000 were white and 270,000 were nonwhite (table 13).

The number of poor rural families headed by persons 45 to 64 years of age is significantly larger than the number headed by persons 25 to 44 years of age, the potentially more productive age group. In 1959, there were 1,638,000 poor rural families headed by a person 45 to 64 years of age and 1,265,000 headed by individuals 25 to 44 years of age. Of the families headed by persons in the older age group,

Table 10.-- Number and proportion of families whose net cash incomes were less than \$3,000, by education of family head, residence of family, and family type, United States, 1959

Residence and family type	Total number of U. S. families	Number of U. S. families with incomes under \$3,000 (poor families)	Poor families as percentage of all U. S. families				Percentage of poor families among all families whose heads had completed the following years of school --							
			Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
			Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	8 or less	9 to 11	12	More than 12	8 or less	9 to 11	12	More than 12
All families ^{1/}	45,150	9,651	21				35	18	12	8				
Urban families	31,959	5,216	16				27	15	10	7				
Head under 25 years of age	1,723	501	29				44	35	22	22				
Husband-wife family	1,544	375	24				38	29	19	21				
Female head	143	112	79				88	87	68	59				
Head 25 to 64 years of age	26,149	3,048	12				20	12	7	5				
Husband-wife family	23,061	1,840	8				15	7	4	3				
Female head	448	1,104	45				54	51	37	23				
Head 65 years old or older	4,087	1,667	41				47	34	30	21				
Husband-wife family	3,140	1,310	42				49	33	30	20				
Female head	710	284	40				44	37	31	26				
Rural nonfarm	9,847	2,852	29				44	21	14	10				
Head under 25 years of age	547	198	36				58	40	26	21				
Husband-wife family	517	174	34				56	36	24	21				
Female head	23	20	88				93	90	82	72				
Head 25 to 64 years of age	7,883	1,750	22				36	17	11	7				
Husband-wife family	7,208	1,365	19				32	14	8	5				
Female head	514	325	63				73	63	53	31				
Head 65 years old or older	1,417	904	64				70	52	44	34				
Husband-wife family	1,140	731	64				70	52	44	33				
Female head	197	127	64				69	58	44	40				
Rural farm	3,343	1,583	47				57	39	31	23				
Head under 25 years of age	86	49	57				79	60	43	33				
Husband-wife family	82	46	56				78	58	42	33				
Female head	2	2	90				100	94	75	23				
Head 25 to 64 years of age	2,658	1,153	43				54	36	30	19				
Husband-wife family	2,478	1,047	42				53	35	29	18				
Female head	95	63	66				74	62	56	35				
Head 65 years old or older	599	381	64				67	56	50	41				
Husband-wife family	488	314	65				68	57	51	41				
Female head	66	42	62				65	56	49	48				

^{1/} Families with male head and no female spouse included in totals but not shown separately.

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (15, table 3).

Table 11. --- Number and proportion of families in the South with net cash incomes under \$3,000, by education of family head, color, and family type, 1959

Color and family type	Total number of families in the South	Number of families in the South with incomes under \$3,000 (poor families)	Percent	Percentage of poor families among all families whose heads had completed the following years of school --				
				8 or less	9 to 11	12	More than 12	Percent
				Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All families 1/	13,512	4,474	33	50	27	17	10	
White families	11,187	3,014	27	43	22	15	9	
Head under 25 years of age	676	250	37	57	40	29	28	
Husband-wife family	634	220	35	54	37	27	27	
Female head	31	25	79	92	89	65	61	
Head 25 to 64 years of age	9,020	1,916	21	36	18	11	6	
Husband-wife family	8,187	1,516	19	33	15	8	5	
Female head	657	342	52	66	54	41	26	
Head 65 years old or older	1,491	848	57	66	47	39	28	
Husband-wife family	1,184	681	58	67	47	39	27	
Female head	232	127	55	63	48	39	33	
Nonwhite families	2,325	1,460	63	69	56	45	24	
Head under 25 years of age	123	93	76	83	75	67	54	
Husband-wife family	96	69	72	80	70	63	52	
Female head	23	21	92	95	92	90	69	
Head 25 to 64 years of age	1,864	1,097	59	65	53	42	21	
Husband-wife family	1,405	741	53	60	42	32	16	
Female head	389	315	81	84	83	77	40	
Head 65 years old or older	338	270	80	82	67	56	48	
Husband-wife family	222	177	80	82	65	53	44	
Female head	91	75	82	84	70	61	52	

1/ Families with male head and no female spouse included in totals but not shown separately.

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (15, table 3).

Table 12.--Number and percentage distribution of poor families, by education of family head, residence, and family type, United States, 1959

Residence and family type	Number of poor families	Number of families as percentage of total number of poor families in the United States	Percentage of poor families whose heads had completed the following number of years of school --				
			8 or less	9 to 11	12	More than 12	
	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
Urban residents -----	5,216	54.0	31.2	10.2	7.9	4.7	
Head under 25 years of age ---	501	5.2	1.1	1.8	1.5	0.9	
Husband-wife family -----	375	3.9	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.7	
Female head -----	112	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	
Head 25 to 64 years of age ---	3,048	31.6	16.8	6.7	5.1	2.8	
Husband-wife family -----	1,840	19.1	11.0	3.6	2.6	1.9	
Female head -----	1,104	11.5	5.2	3.0	2.4	0.8	
Head 65 years old or older ---	1,667	17.2	13.3	1.7	1.3	1.0	
Husband-wife family -----	1,310	13.5	10.5	1.3	1.0	0.8	
Female head -----	284	3.0	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	
Rural nonfarm residents -----	2,852	29.6	21.3	4.1	2.9	1.3	
Head under 25 years of age ---	198	2.1	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.1	
Husband-wife family -----	174	1.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	
Female head -----	20	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1/	
Head 25 to 64 years of age ---	1,750	18.1	12.7	2.7	1.9	0.8	
Husband-wife family -----	1,365	14.1	10.1	2.0	1.4	0.6	
Female head -----	325	3.4	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.2	
Head 65 years old or older ---	904	9.4	7.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	
Husband-wife family -----	731	7.6	6.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	
Female head -----	127	1.3	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Rural farm residents -----	1,583	16.4	11.8	2.0	2.0	0.6	
Head under 25 years of age ---	49	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	1/	
Husband-wife family -----	46	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	1/	
Female head -----	2	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	
Head 25 to 64 years of age ---	1,153	11.9	8.3	1.6	1.7	0.4	
Husband-wife family -----	1,047	10.8	7.5	1.4	1.6	0.3	
Female head -----	63	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	1/	
Head 65 years old or older ---	381	4.0	3.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	
Husband-wife family -----	314	3.3	2.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	
Female head -----	42	1/	0.4	1/	1/	1/	
Total number of poor families in the United States 2/ -----	3/9,651	100.0	64.3	16.3	12.8	6.6	

1/ Less than 0.05 percent.

2/ Families with male head and no female spouse included in totals but not shown separately.

3/ All percentage figures are a percentage of this total.

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (15, table 3).

Table 13.--Number and percentage distribution of poor families in the South, by education of family head, color, and family type, 1959

Color and family type	Number of poor families	Number of families as percentage of total number of poor families in the South	Percentage of families whose heads had completed the following number of years of school --					
			8 or less	9 to 12	12	More than 12		
	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		
White families -----	3,014	67	45	10	8	4		
Head under 25 years of age ---	250	5	2	1	2	1		
Husband-wife family -----	220	5	1	1	1	1		
Female head -----	25	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/		
Head 25 to 64 years of age ---	1,916	43	28	7	5	2		
Husband-wife family -----	1,516	34	23	5	3	2		
Female head -----	342	8	4	2	1	1/		
Head 65 years old or older ----	848	19	15	2	1	1		
Husband-wife family -----	681	15	12	1	1	1		
Female head -----	127	3	2	1/	1/	1/		
Nonwhite families -----	1,460	33	26	4	2	1		
Head under 25 years of age ---	93	2	1	1	1/	1/		
Husband-wife family -----	69	2	1	1/	1/	1/		
Female head -----	21	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/		
Head 25 to 64 years of age ---	1,097	25	19	3	2	1		
Husband-wife family -----	741	17	14	2	1	1/		
Female head -----	315	7	5	1	1	1/		
Head 65 years old or older ----	270	6	6	1/	1/	1/		
Husband-wife family -----	177	4	4	1/	1/	1/		
Female head -----	75	2	2	1/	1/	1/		
Total number of poor families in the South 2/ ---	3/ 4,474	100	71	14	10	5		

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

2/ Families with male head and no female spouse included in totals but not shown separately.

3/ All percentage figures are a percentage of this total.

Source: Compiled from U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (15, table 3).

937,000 were rural nonfarm families and 701,000 were rural farm families. Of the families headed by persons in the younger age group, 813,000 were rural nonfarm and 452,000 rural farm families.

In 1959, 198,000 low income rural nonfarm families (or 36 percent of all rural nonfarm families) and 49,000 poor rural farm families (or 57 percent of all rural farm families) had heads under 25 years of age.

The percentage of poor rural families headed by females is much higher among rural nonfarm families than among rural farm families. Of the rural nonfarm families with incomes under \$3,000, one out of every five is headed by a woman. This is true of only 1 out of 15 or 20 farm families.

The incomes of families headed by a woman are only moderately affected by the educational level of the head, residence of the family (farm or nonfarm), or race. Families headed by females over 65 years of age usually enjoy better living conditions than those headed by younger females. The reason for this is very likely associated with better retirement benefits from Old Age and Survivors Insurance, the increasing number of widows who gain ownership of property, and the increasing number of life insurance beneficiaries.

Labor Force Participation

In 1960, the ratio of the total population to the number of people employed was higher for all rural areas than for urban areas, regardless of the military (table 14). In the United States as a whole there were 2.77 persons per employed civilian. Among urban residents there were 2.64 persons, among rural nonfarm residents 3.23, and among rural farm residents 2.88 persons per employed civilian. These figures, particularly for the rural farm group, overstate the extent of participation in the labor force since they take no account of the substantial amount of underemployment in rural areas. Corrected for underemployment, the number of persons per civilian employee would be 3.45 among the rural nonfarm residents and 4.07 among rural farm residents.

Among counties with many poor rural families, uncorrected figures are more meaningful. As a basis for comparison, 10 counties where at least half the rural families have net cash incomes of less than \$3,000 were selected. ^{4/} In these counties, the ratio of total population to civilian employees was as follows:

Green County, Ala. -----	3.37
Navajo County, Ariz. -----	4.38
Stone County, Ark. -----	3.66
Owsley County, Ky. -----	5.10
Acadia Parish, La. -----	3.49
Tunica County, Miss. -----	3.37
Pitt County, N. C. -----	3.13
Rio Arriba County, N. M. -----	5.54
Lee County, Va. -----	4.54
Grant County, W. Va. -----	3.48

In 1960, counties with the smallest population centers tended to have the lowest percentage of people in the most productive age group--18 to 64 years of age. Counties with communities of less than 2,500 people had, on the average, only 50.1 percent of their population in this age group, compared with 52.7 percent for counties with a major community of 10,000 to 24,999 people and 54.3 percent for counties with a city of 25,000 to 50,000 people. The economic burden of rearing and educating the young and of caring for the senior citizens fell most heavily on counties with no urban centers. In these counties, the percentage of the population 17 years of age and under in 1959 averaged 38.7 percent and that of persons over 65 averaged 11.3 percent. In counties with cities of 25,000 to 50,000 people, the corresponding percentages were 36.7 and 9.0 (table 15).

^{4/} See table 22 (appendix) for total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest 1959 median income.

Table 14-- Ratio of population to number of people employed, by area and residence, United States, 1960

Type of employment and area	Number of people per employed worker in the--			
	Area as a whole	Urban population	Rural nonfarm population	Rural farm population
<u>Civilian and military</u>				
United States -----	2.70	2.59	3.05	2.88
Northeast -----	2.58	2.52	2.90	2.58
North Central -----	2.71	2.61	3.04	2.76
South -----	2.83	2.65	3.16	3.08
West -----	2.66	2.60	2.93	2.77
<u>Civilian only</u>				
United States -----	2.77	2.64	3.23	2.88
Northeast -----	2.61	2.54	2.97	2.58
North Central -----	2.73	2.63	3.12	2.76
South -----	2.95	2.74	3.40	3.08
West -----	2.80	2.70	3.37	2.77

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960 (16, tables 100, 102, 103, 104).

In the same year, the proportion of nonworkers to workers averaged 25 percent higher for counties with no town of 2,500 people or more than for counties with at least one city of 25,000 to 50,000. This higher proportion of nonworkers in rural communities reflects more than the high proportion of very young and very old in these communities. Most particularly, female labor force participation in counties with no town of at least 2,500 averaged only 26.6 percent. On the average, the percentage of females participating in the labor force increased steadily as the size of the largest town in the county increased. For counties with a city of 25,000 to 50,000, the average participation of women in the labor force was 32.9 percent in 1960 (table 16).

Even to attain these lesser employment opportunities, the average rural worker commuted farther in 1960 than his city cousin. (He may have done so in less time, of course.) For 1960, 13.2 percent of the workers in counties with no town with a population as large as 2,500 worked outside their county of residence. Of the workers who lived in counties with a city of 25,000 to 50,000 people, an average of only 8.8 percent worked outside their county of residence (table 16).

Table 15.--Percentage distribution of rural county residents, by age and size of major community in county, and dependency ratio, 1960

Size of major community in county	Age of county residents			Depend- ency ratio <u>1/</u>
	17 and under	18 to 64	65 and over	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	
0 to 2,499 -----	38.7	50.0	11.3	998
2,500 to 4,999 -----	37.1	50.5	12.4	980
5,000 to 9,999 -----	37.2	51.8	11.0	929
10,000 to 24,999 -----	36.6	52.7	10.7	897
25,000 to 50,000 -----	36.7	54.3	9.0	841

1/ Number of persons 17 years of age and under, or 65 years of age or over per 1,000 persons 18 to 64 years of age.

Source: Economic Bases and Potentials of Rural Communities (1, p. 9).

Table 16.--Ratio of nonworkers to total labor force and the percentage of selected groups of workers in the county labor force, by size of major community in the county, 1960

Size of major community in county	Ratio of nonworkers to total labor force <u>1/</u>	Selected groups of workers		
		Females <u>2/</u>	Persons working 50 to 52 weeks in 1959	Persons working outside the county
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
0 to 2,499 -----	2.00	26.6	51.6	13.2
2,500 to 4,999 -----	1.88	27.8	53.5	12.1
5,000 to 9,999 -----	1.77	31.0	52.9	11.7
10,000 to 24,999 -----	1.75	31.9	51.2	11.8
25,000 to 50,000 -----	1.60	32.9	57.2	8.8

1/ Ratio of persons not in labor force (including children under 14) to total labor force.

2/ Females 14 years old or over.

Source: Economic Bases and Potentials of Rural Communities (1, p. 10).

Value of Land and Buildings

The 1959 price per acre of land (including buildings) in the low income rural areas of the Southeast, Northern Great Lakes, and other areas scattered throughout the country is either at or below the U. S. average of \$115 (fig. 6). By contrast, land and buildings near large cities and in irrigation areas in the Western States are valued at much more (over \$500 per acre). In the Corn Belt and in citrus fruit and vegetable areas of Florida and California, land valued in excess of \$200 per acre is common.

Farm Mortgages

In 1959, mortgage loans on farm property in the Southeast and the Appalachian and Delta Regions, three regions containing the poorest rural areas in the United States, were smaller and carried shorter terms and higher interest rates than similar loans in the rest of the country (fig. 7). In these regions, mortgages ranged from \$5,200 to \$9,820; length of terms ranged from 5.4 years to 7 years; and interest rates from 5.59 to 5.96 percent. In general, lower average interest rates and relatively long terms could be secured in the Northern Plains, the Lake States, the Corn Belt, and the Mountain States. In these regions, average terms ranged from 13.8 to 16.7 years. For the general farm population, the average amount lent in the United States was \$10,000, the average length of term was 10.7 years, and the average interest rate was 5.41 percent.

Regional variations are due to differences in the size and character of farms and the extent to which different lenders participated. Banks are the primary lenders, and in most regions make short-term loans.

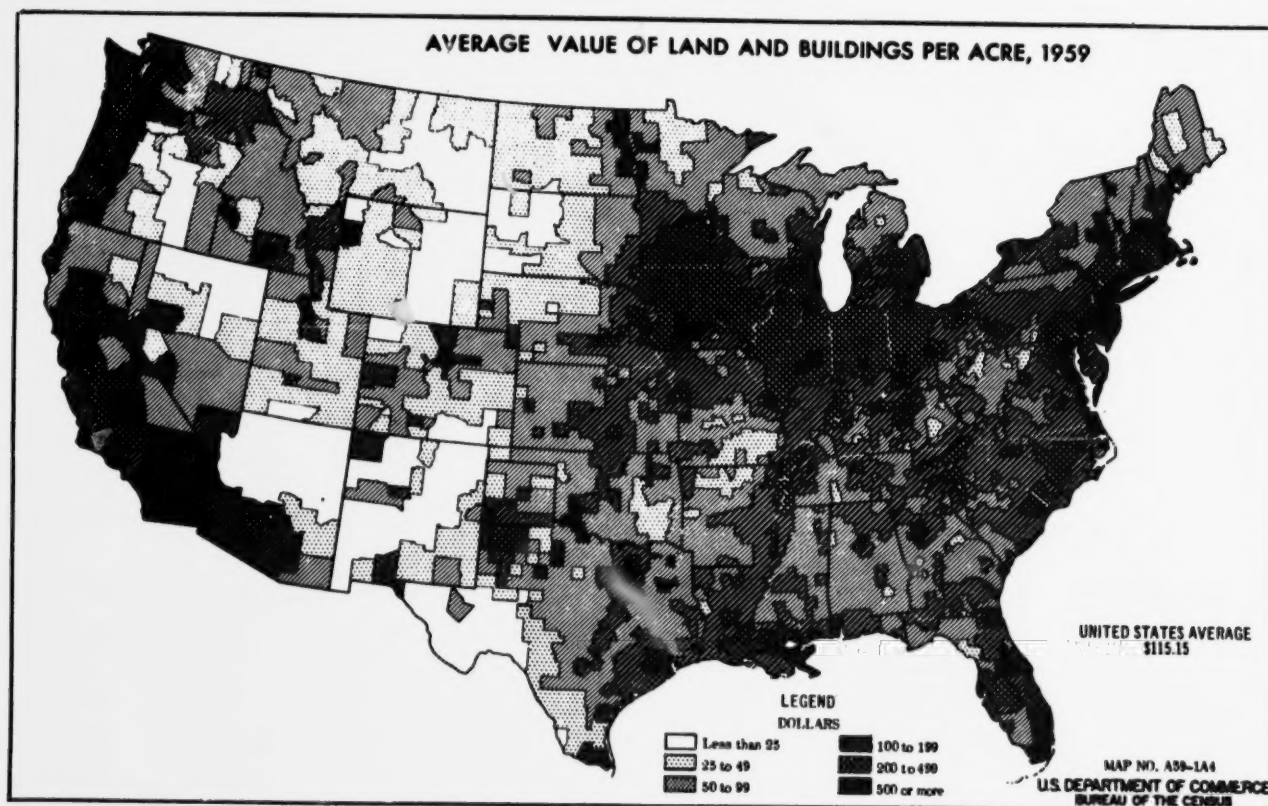


Figure 6

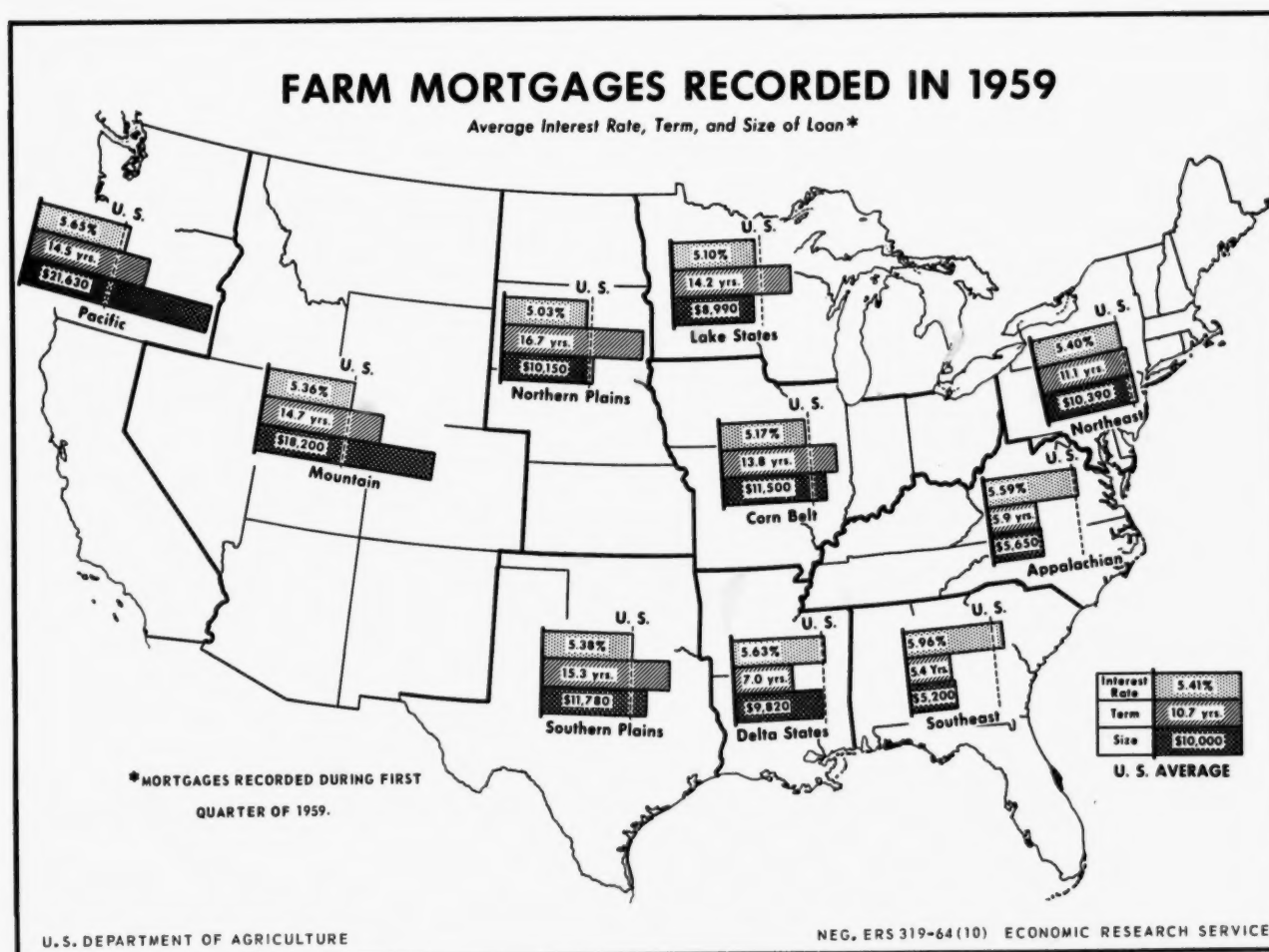


Figure 7

Among regions, bank loans ranged from \$6,740 and \$8,470 in the Southeast and Appalachian Regions to \$16,810 and \$19,150 in the Mountain and Pacific Regions. In the Southeast, loans made by banks averaged only \$3,830. This area has many small farms, and many banks customarily take mortgages on real estate to secure production loans. Life insurance companies and Federal land banks make comparatively large mortgage loans at lower rates and for longer terms (3).

Housing and Related Facilities

Although the quality of housing in both rural and urban areas has improved in recent years, housing in rural communities is still inferior to that in urban areas.

In 1960, one out of every four farm owners lived in a dilapidated house, compared with one in every 12 urban home owners (fig. 8). Renters of farm houses fared even worse. Among this group, one in every three lived in a deteriorated house. New houses are relatively uncommon in rural areas.

In 1959, more than one out of every three homes built before 1950 and almost one in every five built between 1950 and 1959 had no private bathroom (fig. 9). In 1960, two out of every five farm homes and more than one out of four other rural houses had access to neither a public sewerage system nor a septic tank (fig. 10). Under 65 percent of the homes in rural areas of Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina had running water (fig. 11).

In 1950, almost 15,000 rural communities with a population of 100 to 2,500 people lacked a central water supply (fig. 12). The problem of providing such a system is difficult. Area residents who have installed wells or other sources of running water

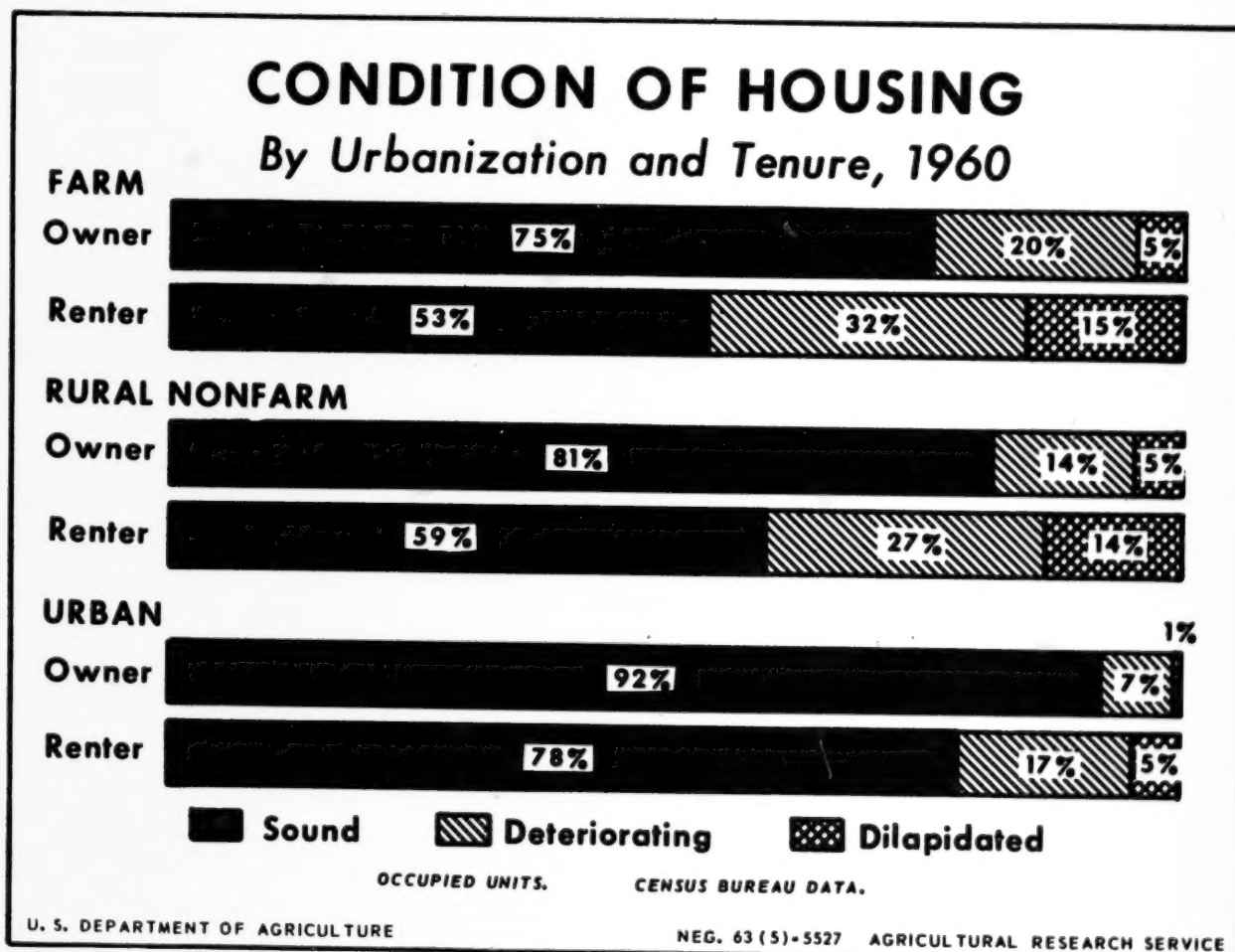


Figure 8

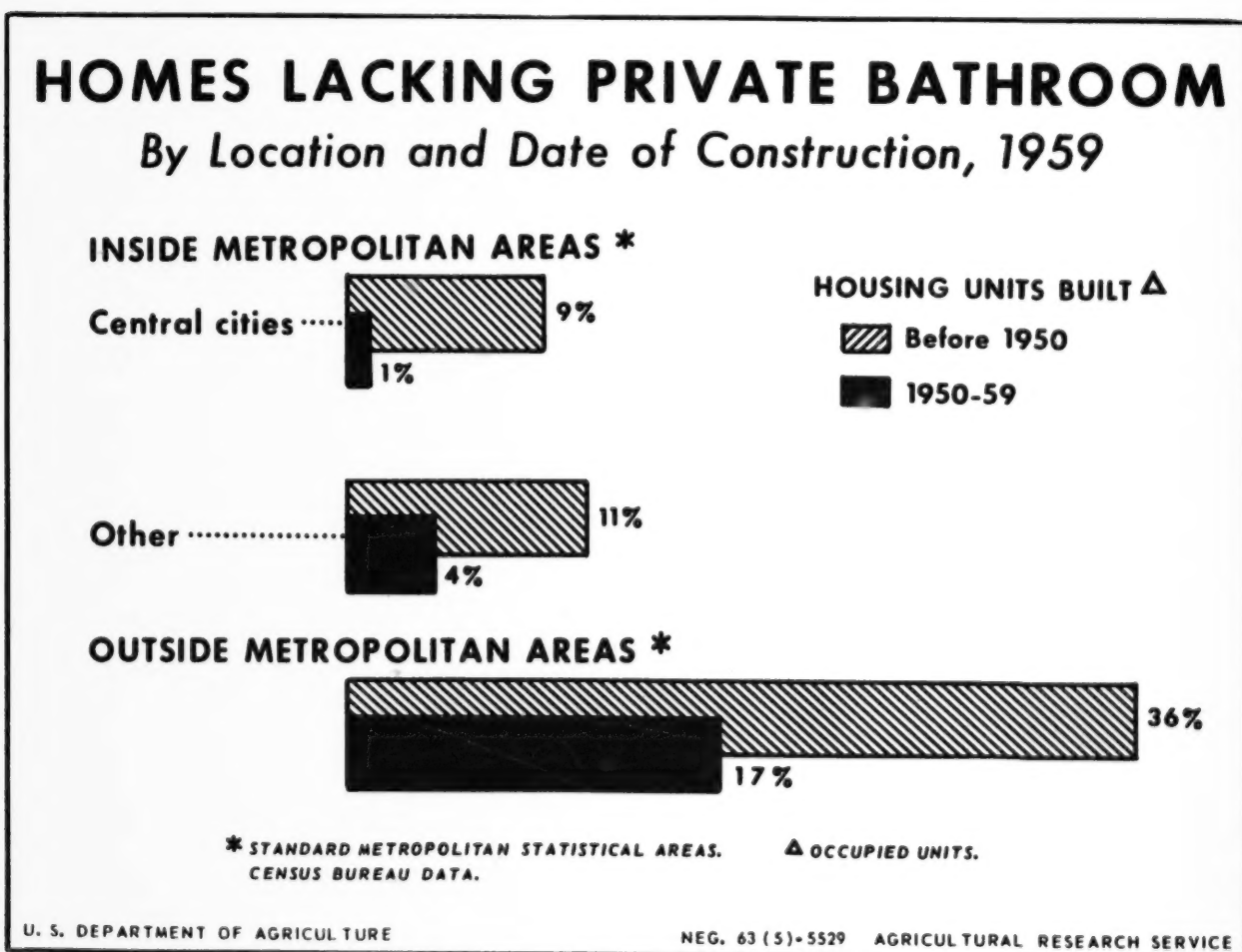


Figure 9

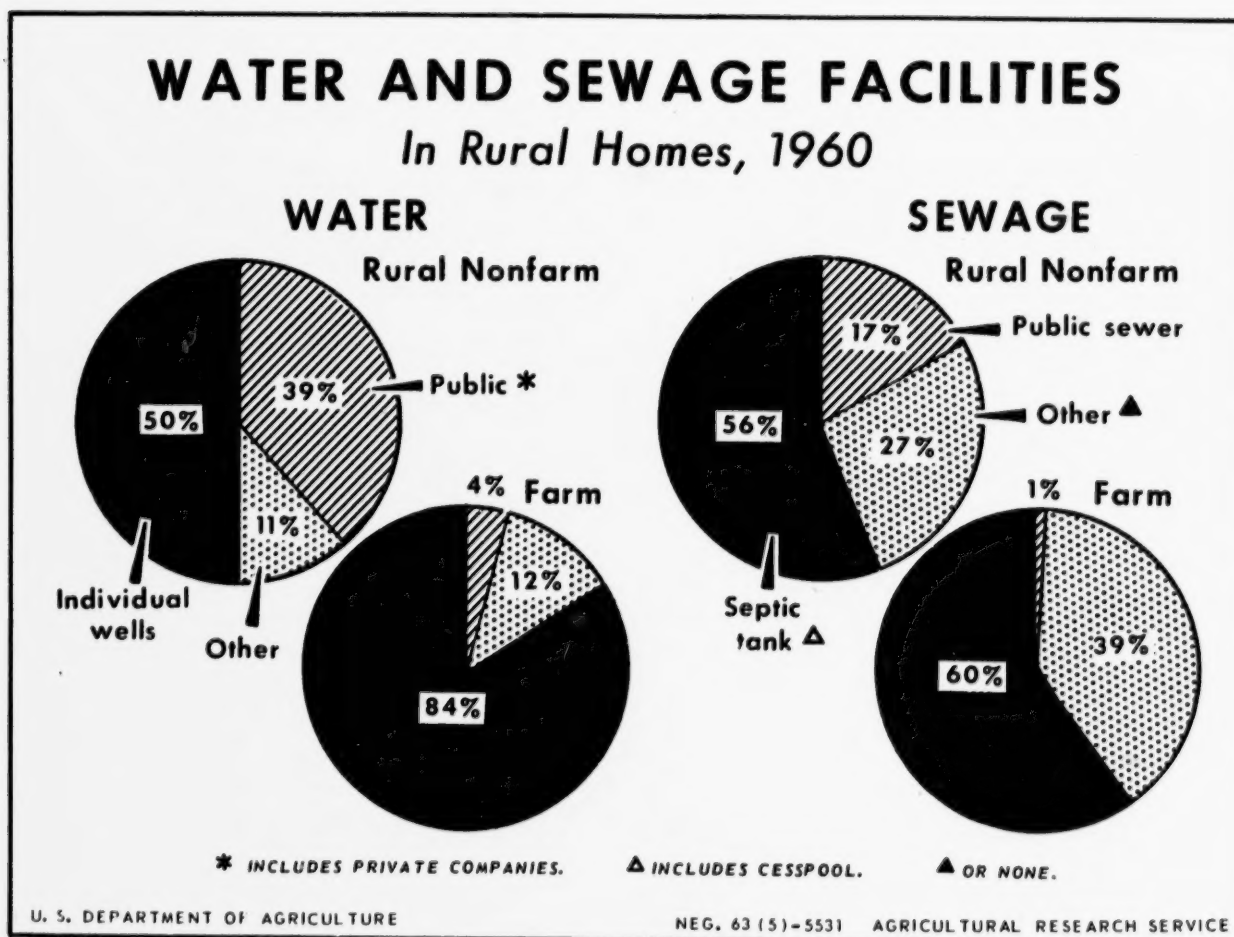


Figure 10

may be unwilling to help finance a community water supply. On the other hand, many rural towns that already have a community water supply may find it inadequate for a number of reasons, such as pollution or insufficient capacity to attract industry to an otherwise favorable site.

Educational Facilities

Educational facilities in rural communities are, in general, limited and of a lower quality than those in urban areas (6, 9).

Fewer schools of all types exist in rural communities. Secondary school enrollments accounted for only 27 percent of the total 1955-56 school enrollment of 1,750 rural counties in 44 States. In city schools, secondary enrollments comprised 32 percent of the total enrollment. Of the 1,750 rural counties, only 27.3 percent reported adult education programs. For independent cities, percentages were as follows: 57.6 to 73.4 percent had kindergartens, 2.8 to 31.5 public summer schools, and 9.7 to 49.1 adult education programs (table 17).

Rural communities invest less money in the education of their youth than do urban areas. In the 1955-56 school year, rural counties spent an average of \$221 per pupil on education. Average expenditures per pupil in urban areas ranged from \$273 to \$321 (table 18). If transportation costs (\$21 per pupil in rural counties; \$10 per pupil in cities) are deducted, the average expenditure per pupil in rural areas is \$200 and that per pupil in cities ranges from \$263 to \$311.

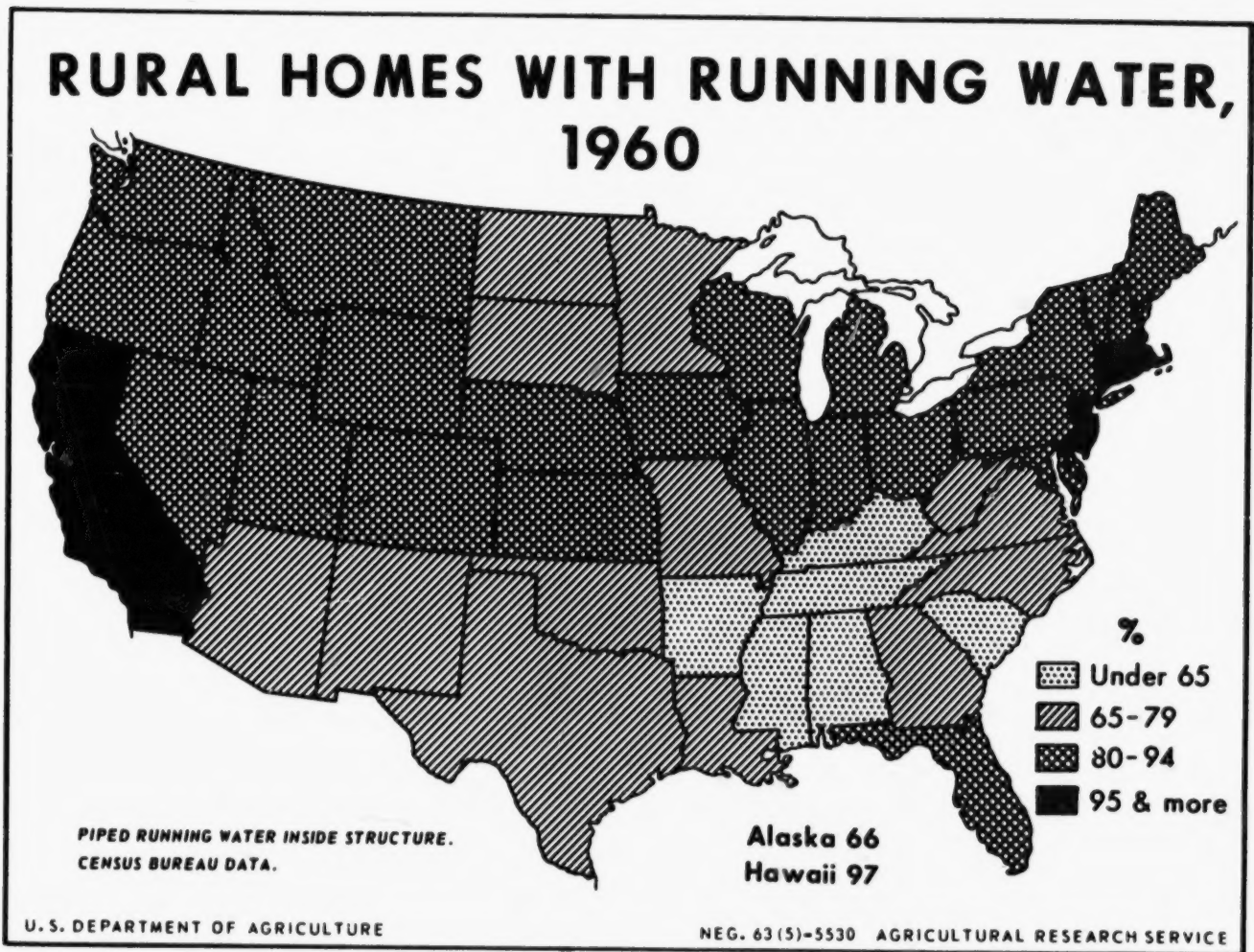


Figure 11

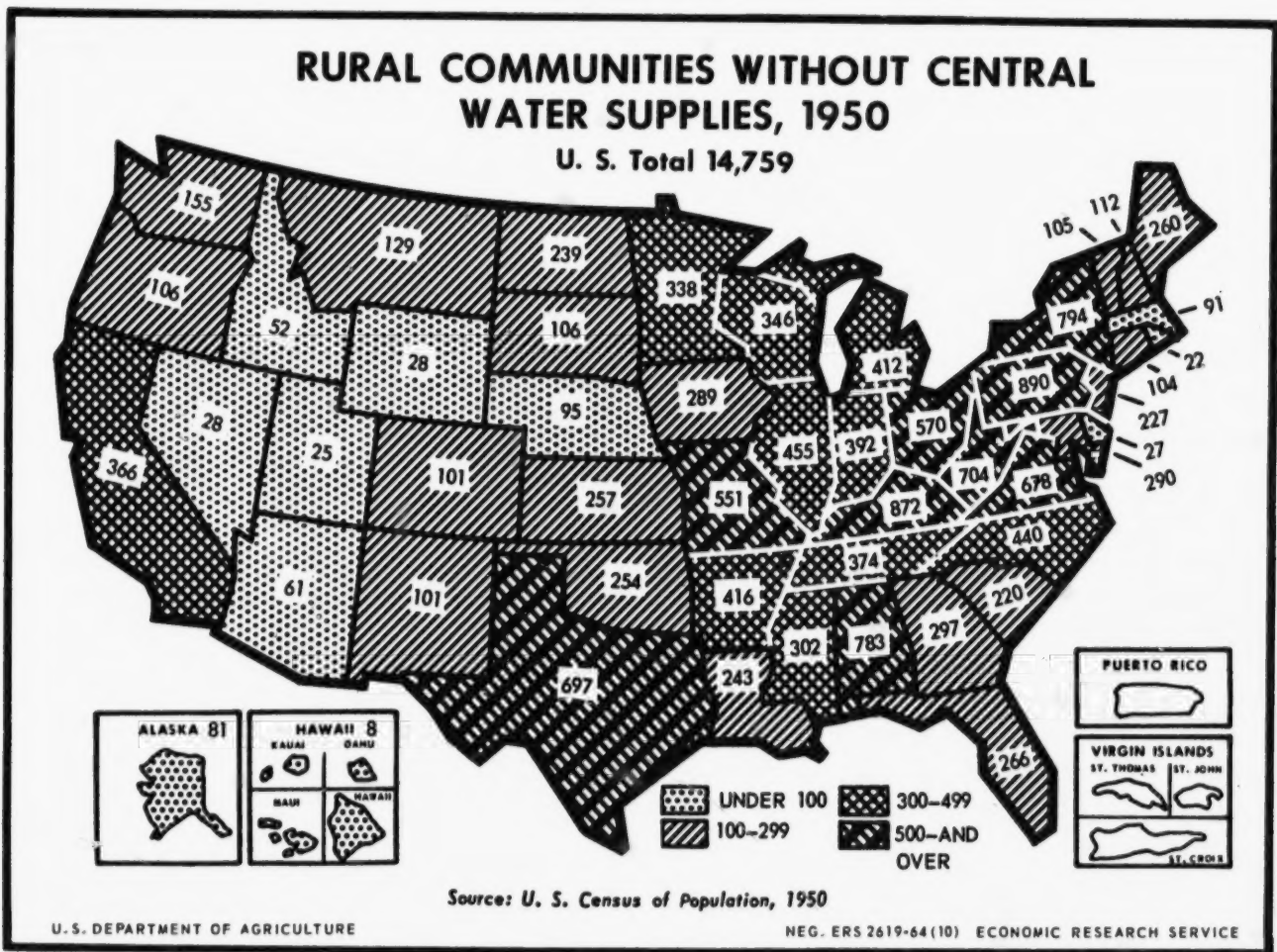


Figure 12

Table 17.--Selected data on public schools in rural counties and cities of specified sizes, United States, 1955-56 ^{1/}

Item	Rural counties ^{2/}	Independent cities with population of --		
		2,500 to 9,999	10,000 to 24,999	25,000 or more
Percent of total enrollment in --				
Elementary schools -----	73.0	67.3	65.2	67.7
Secondary schools -----	27.0	32.7	34.8	32.3
Number of pupils enrolled per teacher -----	26.1	27.0	27.4	28.8
Average enrollment per school -----	119.6	354.0	464.8	685.4
Average instructional staff per school -----	4.8	14.0	18.3	25.5
Average number of teachers per ele- mentary school -----	3.7	10.7	12.7	18.1
Average number of teachers per sec- ondary school -----	8.7	19.7	33.3	47.1
Percent of systems reporting--				
Kindergartens -----	27.3	57.6	61.9	73.4
Adult education programs -----	13.3	9.7	25.3	49.1
Public summer schools -----	2.6	2.8	12.6	31.5

^{1/} Each elementary school organization was counted as a school even though both elementary and secondary schools may have been housed in one building. Number of schools partly estimated.

^{2/} The definition of a rural county for purposes of this information is a county (1) in which at least 85 percent of the 1950 population lived outside census-defined communities of 2,500 or more, or (2) in which 60 to 85 percent of the 1950 population lived outside census-defined communities of 2,500 and the census-defined rural farm population was at least 50 percent of the total population.

Source: Statistics of Rural Schools (2. pp. 1, 2, 11, and 14).

In rural areas, as in urban areas, the quality of training offered by schools is affected by the quality of the instructional staff. Good schools have good teachers and good teachers generally get good salaries (⁵). In the rural areas of the United States, teachers are more poorly paid than teachers in urban communities. In 1955-56, the average salary of teachers in rural counties was \$3,123 per year. Teachers in communities with a population of 2,500 to 9,999 received \$4,034 and those in cities of 25,000 or more received \$5,068 annually (table 18).

Table 18.--Average salaries, current expenditure per pupil, and pupil transportation costs in rural county school systems and city school systems, 1955-56

School system	Average salary of instructional staff	Average current expenditure per pupil <u>1/</u>	Average trans- portation costs per pupil <u>1/</u>
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
School systems in urban areas			
with population of--			
2,500 to 9,999 -----	4,034	273	10
10,000 to 24,999 -----	4,375	286	5
25,000 or more -----	5,068	321	3
School systems in rural counties			
having--			
At least 85 percent rural			
population and at least 50			
percent living on farms ----	2,882	200	21
At least 85 percent rural			
population and less than 50			
percent living on farms ----	3,365	256	25
At least 75 percent rural			
population and at least 50			
percent living on farms ----	3,105	212	20
At least 60 percent but less			
than 75 percent rural popu-			
lation and at least 50 per-			
cent living on farms -----	3,218	224	19
All rural systems -----	3,123	221	21

1/ Average daily attendance.

Source: Selected Indexes of Rural School Finance in the United States, 1955-56 (4, p. 8).

In rural communities, the number of teachers per school is low in relation to that in cities. The average number of teachers per school in rural counties in 1955-56 was 4.8; the number per school in independent cities ranged from 14 to 25.5. Rural elementary schools were at a particular disadvantage in this respect. They had an average of 3.7 teachers per school, compared with 10.7 to 18.1 per elementary school in independent cities. In 1957-58, there were still an estimated 25,200 one-teacher schools (nearly all rural) in the 48 States. This number represented 20 percent of all U. S. schools (5).

Average enrollment per school for rural counties was 120 compared with 685 per school in independent cities.

Retarded Rural Youth

In 1960, the number of rural students scholastically retarded was generally higher than the number of retarded urban students (table 19). Among whites in rural areas, children of nonfarm families had higher rates of retardation than those of rural farm families. Among nonwhites the higher rates existed among children of farm families.

In 1960, the educational attainment of adults in rural areas was generally quite low (table 20). Among persons over 25 years of age, the average level of educational attainment of farm families was lower than that of nonfarm families. The level of educational attainment of nonwhite persons of both groups was lower than that of white persons. A 1960 study showed that despite a recent educational improvement from one generation to another, fathers and sons were more likely to attain the same level of education than different levels. A boy whose father has attended college has more than three times as much chance of going to college as one whose father did not graduate from high school (12).

Availability of Professional Services

In 1960, rural residents had substantially fewer professional services than urban residents. For example, the number of resident physicians and surgeons per 100,000 rural people was only 52.4 compared with 161.2 for urban people (table 21). Likewise, urban areas had 3 times as many dentists and pharmacists and twice as many professional nurses per 100,000 people as did rural areas.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS

Since poverty in rural communities is widespread, touching all segments and every age group, programs designed to combat it must be well coordinated and carefully oriented to the specific needs of various groups.

Programs to alleviate poverty will vary, depending on the special situation of the people suffering from it and the region in which they live. In Appalachia and the Southern States, two general types of programs command attention--those directly concerned with improving the economic status of particular types of families and those concerned with the development of public services such as schools, hospitals, roads, and water supplies. In other sections of the country, where the percentage of poor rural families is lower and the local tax base sufficiently developed to permit a more rapid improvement in public facilities, more emphasis could be placed on programs to better the economic status of particular types of families. Of course, some attention must still be given to both types of programs throughout the country.

Of the programs to assist families, three major types are recognized to be of some value: (1) Programs to provide training and employment opportunities mainly for rural people under 45 years of age who are ready and willing to work; (2) programs to develop local employment opportunities, particularly for those "boxed-in" families whose heads are 45 to 65 years of age; and (3) welfare programs, including housing, that will cater particularly to the needs of older people, invalids, and perhaps female heads of families.

Some rural towns are better prospects for the development of nonfarm industry than others. Factors that may tend to give one town an advantage over another include the proximity of natural resources such as water and minerals, better transportation facilities so that raw materials may be brought in more cheaply and products more

Table 19.-- Percentage of average, scholastically retarded, and scholastically accelerated rural pupils, by age, color, and residence, United States, 1960

Scholastic status, color, and residence	Percentage of pupils of ages--		
	8 to 13	14 to 15	16 to 17
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Average:			
Total (both sexes) -----	87.2	79.6	81.0
White -----	88.9	82.1	83.3
Nonwhite -----	75.7	61.4	61.5
Urban -----	88.1	81.3	82.2
Rural nonfarm -----	85.5	75.9	78.1
Rural farm -----	85.0	77.3	80.2
Scholastically retarded: <u>1/</u>			
Total (both sexes) -----	8.3	14.6	15.0
White -----	7.0	12.4	12.7
Nonwhite -----	17.2	30.3	23.7
Urban -----	6.9	12.1	13.1
Rural nonfarm -----	11.0	19.8	19.4
Rural farm -----	11.2	17.9	17.4
Scholastically accelerated: <u>2/</u>			
Total (both sexes) -----	4.5	5.8	4.0
White -----	4.1	5.5	3.9
Nonwhite -----	7.1	8.3	4.8
Urban -----	5.0	6.6	4.8
Rural nonfarm -----	3.4	4.3	2.5
Rural farm -----	3.8	4.7	2.5

1/ A student is said to be "retarded scholastically" if he is enrolled in a grade below the one in which most U. S. children of his age are enrolled.

2/ A student is said to be "accelerated scholastically" if he is enrolled in a grade above the one in which most U. S. children of his age are enrolled.

Source: Educational Status of Rural Youth (12, p. 18).

easily marketed, and the presence of aggressive local leadership. Thus, the need for the provision of public facilities, such as an improved water supply, and the extent to which extra rural housing can be economically provided will vary among rural communities.

Table 20.--Percentage of persons 25 years old and over who had completed specified years of school in 1960, by residence and color, United States and regions

Area and years of school completed	Urban ^{1/}		Rural nonfarm ^{1/}		Rural farm ^{1/}	
	White	Non- white	White	Non- white	White	Non- white
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States:						
0 to 8 years of school -----	33.8	53.9	44.5	75.5	52.4	83.6
4 years of high school or more --	46.4	25.3	36.5	11.6	31.6	7.1
1 or more years of college -----	19.6	9.3	12.8	4.1	9.5	2.4
Northeast:						
0 to 8 years of school -----	37.5	48.3	39.0	56.5	46.6	71.5
4 years of high school -----	42.3	27.8	41.1	23.1	35.6	13.7
1 or more years of college -----	16.8	8.4	14.8	7.5	11.9	4.5
North Central:						
0 to 8 years of school -----	35.0	49.4	43.8	60.0	50.3	71.1
4 years of high school or more --	45.5	26.4	38.1	19.4	35.6	15.5
1 or more years of college -----	13.2	9.3	12.1	6.1	9.3	4.4
South:						
0 to 8 years of school -----	33.1	63.1	51.7	79.2	59.4	85.4
4 years of high school or more --	47.6	19.1	29.8	9.4	23.3	5.7
1 or more years of college -----	21.7	7.8	10.8	3.6	7.8	2.1
West:						
0 to 8 years of school -----	26.4	39.2	34.5	61.1	39.3	62.9
4 years of high school or more --	54.0	40.6	44.6	22.0	42.0	25.0
1 or more years of college -----	24.5	15.6	17.5	6.2	15.2	5.6

^{1/} Standard census definitions.

Source: Educational Status of Rural Youth (12, p. 12).

For nonfarm industries that are consumer market oriented and not resource oriented, the most promising sites for the development of nonfarm industries in low income rural areas, other things being equal, are likely to be those counties closest to the major consumer markets of the Nation. These include scattered counties in the northern and western States, counties on the edges of Appalachia, and a limited number of counties elsewhere. For further development of nonfarm industries in regions where half the families in many contiguous counties are poor, it may be fruitful to concentrate on stable nonfarm products, such as low-priced clothing and prefabricated housing, in conjunction with a program of basic education. Elsewhere, warranted public programs for the betterment of public facilities might place primary emphasis on the consolidation of facilities now serving individual counties so that superior services could be provided for the widely dispersed rural population.

Perhaps the most important implication is that the magnitude of the problem and the present limited knowledge of it compel immediate and special attention to its solution, with emphasis on local community initiative. However, community leadership

Table 21.-- Number of workers in selected occupations per 100,000 population, urban and rural, United States, 1960

Occupation	Number per 100,000 residents	
	Urban areas	Rural areas
Physicians and surgeons -----	161.2	52.4
Dentists -----	60.0	21.9
Pharmacists -----	63.9	23.3
Nurses, professional -----	387.3	194.7
Teachers, elementary -----	568.0	548.5
Public -----	460.7	493.2
Private -----	107.3	55.3
Teachers (N.E.C.) ^{1/} -----	96.3	58.0
Librarians -----	56.4	27.1
Clergymen -----	108.3	120.3

^{1/} N.E.C. means "not elsewhere classified."

Source: Compiled from "Characteristics of Professional Workers" (14, table 1).

is likely to be scarcest in the very areas that have the greatest need for such programs. Some general guidelines and a sizable amount of outside technical assistance and research are likely to be needed, if the development programs of individual areas are to be sufficiently advanced.

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APPENDIX

Definition of Rural

In this report, the definition of rural is the same as that used in the 1960 Census of Population. According to the Census, "rural" persons are those living in towns or communities with 2,500 people or less, or in open country. Virtually this same definition has been used by the Census since 1910.

Changes in technology, including the increased role of the automobile in modern life generally and the additional importance of large machinery and more capital-intensive methods of farm production, have greatly changed rural life since 1910. As a result, farmers and other rural residents now tend to buy goods and services for both business and pleasure in towns with more than 2,500 population. Businesses of sufficient size and specialized competence to meet the needs of rural residents commonly gravitate to larger towns. They can thus attain a sufficient volume of business to match the prices and services of their competitors. This is true, for example, of retail stores, entertainment facilities, and firms catering to farmers' production needs, such as machinery dealers and fertilizer distributors.

Accordingly, any coordinated and complete program to eliminate poverty from rural areas must take account of the living conditions and income opportunities of the whole rural population (as currently defined) by relating these conditions and opportunities to the economic and social status and potential of towns that form major focal points for the development of the adjoining rural areas. In 1910, towns of less than 2,500 provided such focal points and a parallel logical basis for the census classification of rural and urban residents. In 1964, even towns of 5,000 may not be large enough to provide such a focus, although such towns are essentially rural by the nature of their clientele. For the future, rural problems are likely to dominate towns even as large as 10,000 people, except in urban fringe areas.

Thus, while the present report suggests that there are about equal numbers of rural and urban poor, a redefinition of rural that took greater cognizance of the differing nature of the needed remedial programs in rural and urban areas would identify a significantly larger proportion of the poor as "rural." Under such a redefinition, recognition would be given to the need for school consolidation and provision of specialized teachers, the provision of improved medical services over large areas of low population density, the development of nonfarm industries oriented to virtually unused natural resources, and the provision of job opportunities for excess farm labor, to name a few examples, as essentially rural problems. These are in contrast to essentially urban problems such as the need for slum clearance, the provision of efficient mass transit systems, the elimination of concentrations of juvenile delinquents, and the provision of open space. In addition, the special intermediate problems of rural communities adjoining metropolitan centers could be better identified. These rural communities may, for example, suffer from heavy erosions of their tax base through annexation of marginal areas by adjoining cities and so be less able to provide local community facilities. At the same time, city expansion could make city facilities less available to them through increased traffic congestion, restrictive ordinances, and simply a slower per capita rate of development of such services.

Using the 1960 census definition of rural, 35 percent of the 1959 rural population lived in city-dominated counties (those with at least one town of 25,000 people or more), another 35 percent lived in what might be termed "rurban" counties (those with at least one town of 5,000 to 25,000 people) and 30 percent in predominantly rural counties (counties with no town of 5,000 people or more). Twenty percent of the 1959 rural farm population lived within city-dominated counties.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has recently recognized the need for a more comprehensive definition of "rural" than that used by the Census. In its recent studies of "rural schools" (8,11), rural counties were defined as those in which at least 60 percent of the 1950 population were rural, that is, did not live in communities of at least 2,500 people or in urban fringe areas around cities of at least 50,000 people. A total of 1,750 counties in 44 states qualified. (Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Alaska, and Hawaii are not represented.)

Appendix Table

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Greene, Ala. -----	2,807	2,077	1,782	807	1,056
Holmes, Miss. -----	5,876	4,229	3,475	1,693	1,226
Bullock, Ala. -----	2,834	1,966	1,493	649	1,239
Tunica, Miss. -----	3,469	2,700	2,700	1,805	1,260
Owsley, Ky. -----	1,242	1,000	1,000	652	1,324
Quitman, Miss. -----	4,315	3,120	2,815	1,477	1,335
Fayette, Tenn. -----	4,971	3,744	3,744	2,635	1,363
Jefferson, Miss. -----	2,143	1,586	1,586	426	1,370
Lowndes, Ala. -----	2,945	2,122	2,122	838	1,387
Humphreys, Miss. -----	3,911	2,798	2,209	686	1,400
Claiborne, Miss. -----	2,262	1,593	1,197	356	1,421
Sumter, Ala. -----	4,213	3,044	2,654	1,212	1,423
Lee, Ark. -----	4,479	3,216	2,567	1,874	1,429
Breathitt, Ky. -----	3,252	2,473	2,473	772	1,432
Williamsburg, S. C. -----	7,954	5,433	5,057	3,108	1,440
Hancock, Tenn. -----	1,857	1,448	1,448	1,140	1,442
Greene, N. C. -----	3,475	2,444	2,444	1,653	1,451
Wolfe, Ky. -----	1,427	1,153	1,153	658	1,455
Marshall, Miss. -----	4,746	3,182	2,616	1,800	1,457
Perry, Ala. -----	3,598	2,490	2,128	840	1,458
Coahoma, Miss. -----	10,028	6,177	3,857	1,861	1,459
Lee, S. C. -----	4,316	2,959	2,553	1,677	1,469
Wade Hampton, Alaska -----	509	411	411	1/	1,469
Early, Ga. -----	3,010	2,119	1,729	816	1,473
Issaquena, Miss. -----	751	580	580	295	1,479
Carroll, Miss. -----	2,392	1,799	1,799	1,026	1,484
Knox, Ky. -----	5,754	4,054	3,551	610	1,487
Wayne, Ky. -----	3,534	2,594	2,174	1,158	1,491
Tallahatchie, Miss. -----	5,141	3,826	3,470	1,491	1,493
Magoffin, Ky. -----	2,464	1,870	1,870	780	1,504
Tate, Miss. -----	3,830	2,606	2,263	1,685	1,506
Kemper, Miss. -----	2,678	1,971	1,971	1,223	1,515
Madison, Miss. -----	6,719	4,320	3,113	1,775	1,529
Bolivar, Miss. -----	11,290	7,762	6,819	4,047	1,534
Haywood, Tenn. -----	5,082	3,487	2,770	2,362	1,535

See footnote at end of table, p. 46.

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Dollars
Starr, Tex. -----	3,339	2,384	1,647	377	1,535
Hale, Ala. -----	4,087	2,855	2,536	973	1,545
Wilcox, Ala. -----	3,704	2,746	2,746	972	1,550
Burke, Ga. -----	4,317	2,908	2,275	968	1,572
Panola, Miss. -----	6,416	4,362	4,105	2,634	1,575
Hardeman, Tenn. -----	4,463	2,942	2,619	1,374	1,577
Marengo, Ala. -----	5,976	3,620	2,600	908	1,589
Leflore, Miss. -----	10,141	6,071	3,782	2,835	1,597
Pike, Ala. -----	5,933	3,564	2,197	1,023	1,610
Webster, Ga. -----	694	494	494	267	1,612
Sunflower, Miss. -----	9,115	6,210	5,465	2,072	1,622
Crittenden, Ark. -----	10,039	5,694	4,226	1,206	1,627
Henry, Ala. -----	3,603	2,298	1,669	793	1,630
Attala, Miss. -----	5,120	3,191	2,416	1,417	1,637
Jackson, Ky. -----	2,502	1,893	1,893	963	1,651
Baker, Ga. -----	982	728	728	366	1,660
Terrell, Ga. -----	2,833	1,792	1,133	591	1,662
Jim Hogg, Tex. -----	1,144	707	146	1/	1,665
Newton, Ark. -----	1,506	1,155	1,155	510	1,666
Lauderdale, Tenn. -----	5,172	3,521	3,062	1,817	1,668
Phillips, Ark. -----	9,775	5,781	3,490	1,899	1,670
St. Francis, Ark. -----	7,124	4,560	3,352	1,761	1,674
Noxubee, Miss. -----	3,528	2,488	2,488	1,477	1,676
Tensas, La. -----	2,590	1,836	1,836	767	1,683
Jackson, Tenn. -----	2,408	1,816	1,816	1,163	1,684
Marion, S. C. -----	6,789	4,063	2,539	1,372	1,689
Clay, Tenn. -----	1,818	1,317	1,317	764	1,704
Houston, Tex. -----	4,511	2,960	2,218	727	1,704
Russell, Ky. -----	2,874	2,031	2,031	1,134	1,704
Clinton, Ky. -----	2,207	1,602	1,602	877	1,714
Yalobusha, Miss. -----	2,937	1,805	1,455	899	1,718
Whitley, Ky. -----	6,287	3,893	2,887	640	1,725
Barbour, Ala. -----	5,745	3,564	2,611	1,100	1,729
Menifee, Ky. -----	1,049	804	804	446	1,733
San Jacinto, Tex. -----	1,546	1,061	1,061	303	1,737

See footnote at end of table, p. 46.

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Dollars
Seminole, Ga. -----	1,589	1,042	694	469	1,739
Stone, Ark. -----	1,708	1,332	1,332	500	1,740
Bethel, Alaska -----	949	659	659	1/	1,745
Madison, La. -----	3,619	2,288	1,017	658	1,745
Worth, Ga. -----	3,608	2,298	1,928	1,245	1,752
Yazoo, Miss. -----	7,080	4,340	2,909	1,660	1,757
Montgomery, Miss. -----	3,176	2,029	1,464	705	1,761
Calhoun, S. C. -----	2,603	1,775	1,773	700	1,766
Zapata, Tex. -----	909	595	595	1/	1,766
Jefferson Davis, Miss. ----	3,038	2,040	2,040	1,118	1,772
Overton, Tenn. -----	3,708	2,479	2,091	940	1,783
Johnson, Tenn. -----	2,682	1,886	1,886	1,083	1,784
Clarendon, S. C. -----	5,731	3,824	3,438	1,986	1,785
Taliaferro, Ga. -----	746	511	511	161	1,795
Desha, Ark. -----	4,819	2,726	1,862	862	1,796
Grimes, Tex. -----	3,203	1,982	1,382	596	1,797
Washington, Miss. -----	17,382	8,487	3,339	931	1,798
Brooks, Ga. -----	3,420	2,189	1,554	999	1,801
Casey, Ky. -----	3,437	2,455	2,455	1,711	1,802
Washington, Tex. -----	5,054	2,795	1,999	1,110	803
Pitt, N. C. -----	15,302	8,293	5,548	2,942	1,810
Bell, Ky. -----	8,122	4,788	2,946	141	1,818
Robeson, N. C. -----	18,182	10,934	9,326	5,243	1,822
Choctaw, Miss. -----	2,126	1,465	1,465	548	1,833
Clay, Ky. -----	4,317	3,150	3,150	905	1,833
McCreary, Ky. -----	2,666	1,907	1,907	177	1,835
Leslie, Ky. -----	2,157	1,575	1,575	193	1,838
Halifax, N. C. -----	12,613	6,636	5,114	2,552	1,843
Kenedy, Tex. -----	191	136	136	74	(1,844)
Lee, Ky. -----	1,765	1,163	1,163	340	1,847
Monroe, Ark. -----	3,778	2,359	1,836	903	1,850
Chicot, Ark. -----	4,367	2,825	1,318	758	1,851
Randolph, Ga. -----	2,573	1,673	1,034	596	1,852
Benton, Miss. -----	1,732	1,229	1,229	735	1,853
St. Landry, La. -----	17,932	10,301	7,396	3,301	1,855

See footnote at end of table, p. 46.

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Dollars
Lee, Va. -----	6,135	4,914	4,238	1,627	1,856
Monroe, Ky. -----	3,030	2,132	2,132	1,242	1,856
Webster, Miss. -----	2,562	1,695	1,695	776	1,857
Sharkey, Miss. -----	2,176	1,507	1,507	1,008	1,859
Conecuh, Ala. -----	4,151	2,628	2,186	691	1,861
Allen, Ky. -----	3,466	2,268	1,845	1,286	1,864
Claiborne, Tenn. -----	4,646	3,215	3,215	1,814	1,865
Franklin, La. -----	5,887	3,689	3,215	1 774	1,865
Evangeline, La. -----	7,802	4,899	3,435	1,530	1,867
Irwin, Ga. -----	2,133	1,371	972	631	1,876
Knott, Ky. -----	3,603	2,544	2,544	296	1,876
Richland, La. -----	5,445	3,258	2,486	1,374	1,876
East Carroll, La. -----	3,002	1,960	1,194	771	1,877
Chickasaw, Miss. -----	4,138	2,383	1,848	933	1,882
Union, Ga. -----	6,039	1,802	1,093	437	1,885
Fulton, Ark. -----	1,825	1,282	1,282	639	1,886
Leake, Miss. -----	4,895	2,941	2,941	1,728	1,892
Lawrence, Ark. -----	4,520	2,817	2,498	1,081	1,896
Cumberland, Ky. -----	2,057	1,420	1,420	847	1,898
Rockcastle, Ky. -----	3,029	2,021	2,021	849	1,898
Choctaw, Okla. -----	4,171	2,686	1,797	557	1,902
Sharp, Ark. -----	1,752	1,186	1,186	550	1,902
Woodruff, Ark. -----	3,317	2,210	2,210	844	1,902
Pontotoc, Miss. -----	4,541	3,040	3,040	1,669	1,903
Union, Miss. -----	4,848	2,924	2,318	1,390	1,907
Dallas, Ala. -----	12,457	6,480	3,567	1,445	1,908
Lincoln, Ark. -----	2,921	1,883	1,883	692	1,911
Calhoun, Ga. -----	1,612	1,107	1,107	254	1,913
Crenshaw, Ala. -----	3,688	2,564	2,564	932	1,914
Copiah, Miss. -----	6,344	3,917	2,931	1,024	1,916
Lake, Tenn. -----	2,287	1,528	1,528	769	1,916
Adair, Okla. -----	3,369	2,335	2,335	612	1,919
Clay, N. C. -----	1,369	971	971	427	1,921
Oktibbeha, Miss. -----	5,421	2,942	2,042	724	1,921
Pemiscot, Mo. -----	8,891	5,377	3,850	2,038	1,921

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Dollars
Metcalfe, Ky. -----	2,263	1,545	1,545	1,176	1,922
Marion, Tex. -----	2,008	1,165	793	107	1,924
Tyrrell, N. C. -----	1,048	752	752	257	1,927
Macon, Ala. -----	5,225	2,972	2,464	871	1,928
Madison, Ark. -----	2,454	1,689	1,689	868	1,928
Robertson, Ky. -----	666	420	420	311	1,927
Dillion, S. C. -----	6,241	3,656	3,047	1,796	1,932
Freestone, Tex. -----	3,391	1,958	1,651	454	1,935
Adair, Ky. -----	3,769	2,448	2,448	1,480	1,939
Clay, Miss. -----	4,306	2,234	1,388	704	1,940
Dooly, Ga. -----	2,613	1,701	1,701	1,001	1,942
Fentress, Tenn. -----	2,916	2,015	2,015	499	1,942
Estill, Ky. -----	3,187	1,829	1,532	582	1,945
Natchitoches, La. -----	7,965	4,790	3,409	999	1,945
Avoyelles, La. -----	9,219	5,846	4,662	1,919	1,946
Leon, Tex. -----	2,602	1,732	1,732	587	1,946
Bamberg, S. C. -----	3,533	2,067	1,346	608	1,948
Grayson, Ky. -----	4,078	2,537	2,196	1,369	1,953
Conway, Ark. -----	3,947	2,095	1,496	559	1,955
Atkinson, Ga. -----	1,345	908	908	220	1,956
Meigs, Tenn. -----	1,188	767	767	315	1,956
Warren, N. C. -----	4,112	2,645	2,645	1,327	1,958
Red River, Tex. -----	4,212	2,515	2,067	674	1,959
Telfair, Ga. -----	2,767	1,711	1,413	549	1,960
De Witt, Tex. -----	5,315	2,942	1,433	989	1,961
Johnson, Ky. -----	4,772	2,742	2,417	401	1,961
Wilson, N. C. -----	13,193	6,449	4,043	2,330	1,964
Hoke, N. C. -----	3,196	1,704	1,539	735	1,965
Van Buren, Ark. -----	2,033	1,394	1,394	528	1,968
Falls, Tex. -----	5,422	3,287	2,453	967	1,970
Laurel, Ky. -----	5,920	3,636	3,313	1,468	1,975
Morgan, Ky. -----	2,593	1,747	1,747	1,018	1,976
Todd, S. Dak. -----	949	579	579	220	1,976
Ripley, Mo. -----	2,509	1,611	1,611	535	1,977
Clay, Ga. -----	1,019	679	679	190	1,978

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Dollars
Hyde, N. C. -----	1,352	927	927	283	1,979
Stewart, Ga. -----	1,598	1,081	1,081	248	1,979
Wilkinson, Miss. -----	2,769	1,954	1,954	489	1,982
Houston, Ala. -----	12,829	5,875	3,215	1,638	1,983
Bledsoe, Tenn. -----	1,819	1,285	1,285	423	1,984
Tippah, Miss. -----	3,827	2,389	2,084	1,388	1,984
Butler, Ala. -----	5,722	3,380	2,587	734	1,986
McIntosh, Okla. -----	3,225	2,061	1,561	528	1,987
Pushmataha, Okla. -----	2,437	1,610	1,610	465	1,987
Taylor, Ga. -----	1,877	1,129	1,129	359	1,987
New Madrid, Mo. -----	7,328	4,665	4,060	2,053	1,989
Allendale, S. C. -----	2,510	1,509	1,137	350	1,992
Pulaski, Ky. -----	8,872	5,352	4,056	2,289	1,995
Martin, N. C. -----	5,832	3,539	2,844	1,775	1,997
Robertson, Tex. -----	3,981	2,262	1,708	463	1,999
Miller, Ga. -----	1,686	1,120	1,120	661	2,000
Quitman, Ga. -----	506	354	354	163	2,000
Screven, Ga. -----	3,305	2,003	1,646	780	2,000
Treutlen, Ga. -----	1,358	858	858	256	2,000
Hardin, Tenn. -----	4,537	2,726	2,163	821	2,007
Madison, N. C. -----	4,128	2,630	2,630	1,799	2,007
Coffee, Ala. -----	7,674	3,803	2,436	1,341	2,009
Lavaca, Tex. -----	5,291	3,050	2,444	1,657	2,009
McNairy, Tenn. -----	4,857	3,070	3,070	1,342	2,012
Wilcox, Ga. -----	1,869	1,234	1,234	558	2,012
Cumberland, Va. -----	1,472	959	959	463	2,013
Lee, Tex. -----	2,410	1,417	1,076	691	2,017
Grady, Ga. -----	4,243	2,436	1,644	1,071	2,020
Neshoba, Miss. -----	5,160	3,094	2,535	1,410	2,021
Logan, Ark. -----	4,153	2,571	1,707	708	2,025
Red River, La. -----	2,395	1,556	1,556	226	2,034
Cross, Ark. -----	4,582	2,675	2,229	962	2,036
Henderson, Tenn. -----	4,256	2,566	2,130	1,185	2,036
Cumberland, Tenn. -----	4,529	2,737	2,233	669	2,041
Edmonson, Ky. -----	2,037	1,279	1,279	617	2,042

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Dollars
Rains, Tex. -----	882	594	594	320	2,044
Douglas, Mo. -----	2,674	1,735	1,735	973	2,050
Elliott, Ky. -----	1,430	925	925	603	2,054
Macon, Tenn. -----	3,341	2,247	2,247	1,502	2,055
Greene, Ark. -----	6,683	3,728	2,575	1,805	2,057
Butler, Ky. -----	2,457	1,541	1,541	725	2,059
Marlboro, S. C. -----	6,069	3,540	2,808	1,446	2,059
Warren, Ga. -----	1,584	1,054	1,054	301	2,061
Toombs, Ga. -----	4,021	1,983	918	543	2,062
Sampson, N. C. -----	10,811	6,620	5,844	3,402	2,065
Prentiss, Miss. -----	4,586	2,848	2,434	1,401	2,066
Searcy, Ark. -----	2,152	1,502	1,502	801	2,066
Okfuskee, Okla. -----	2,966	1,744	1,340	357	2,068
San Augustine, Tex. -----	1,893	1,224	890	285	2,068
Martin, Ky. -----	2,061	1,298	1,298	102	2,071
Scott, Miss. -----	5,005	3,073	2,656	1,226	2,079
Marion, Ga. -----	1,132	759	759	169	2,081
Walker, Tex. -----	3,936	2,087	1,218	257	2,083
Lawrence, Ky. -----	2,880	1,832	1,832	664	2,088
Jenkins, Ga. -----	2,142	1,288	784	446	2,089
Summers, W. Va. -----	3,674	2,000	1,479	368	2,090
Turner, Ga. -----	1,996	1,207	824	398	2,090
Edgecombe, N. C. -----	11,699	5,975	3,896	2,096	2,091
De Soto, Miss. -----	5,073	3,172	3,172	1,436	2,093
Mora, N. Mex. -----	1,249	861	861	145	2,094
Randolph, Ark. -----	3,296	1,941	1,568	815	2,095
Schley, Ga. -----	708	477	477	159	2,096
Izard, Ark. -----	1,862	1,230	1,230	438	2,099
Pickett, Tenn. -----	1,078	702	702	427	2,099
Catahoula, La. -----	2,675	1,681	1,681	532	2,103
Bastrop, Tex. -----	4,344	2,311	1,230	537	2,107
Ozark, Mo. -----	1,924	1,280	1,280	732	2,107
Independence, Ark. -----	5,506	3,298	2,559	800	2,111
Madison, Tex. -----	1,753	1,025	1,025	403	2,111
St. Helena, La. -----	1,940	1,202	1,202	387	2,111

Table 22.--Total number of families, median income of all rural families, and number of poor families, by residence, in the 250 U. S. counties where rural families had the lowest median incomes, 1959--Continued

County	Total number of families in county	Families with an income of less than \$3,000			Median income of all rural families
		Total rural and urban	Rural non- farm and farm	Rural farm only	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Lafayette, Miss. -----	4,568	2,414	1,839	1,066	2,116
Bertie, N. C. -----	5,277	3,355	3,355	1,638	2,117
Macon, Ga. -----	1,132	759	1,222	555	2,121
Sandoval, N. Mex. -----	2,701	1,574	1,348	56	2,121
Claiborne, La. -----	4,928	2,550	1,755	439	2,129

1/ Not reported separately.

Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1960, PC(1)-C(1961), tables 86, 91, 93.